はがねのれんきんじゅつし

鋼の錬金術師

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

荒川 弘

Hiromu Arakawa

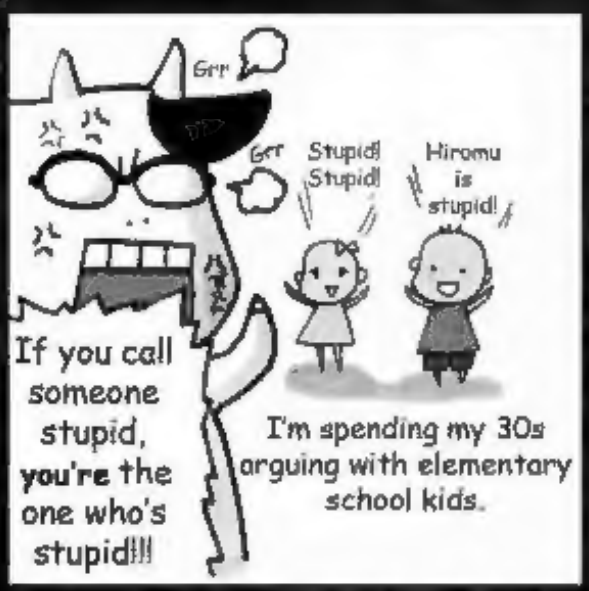
18

GANGAN COMICS

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST™

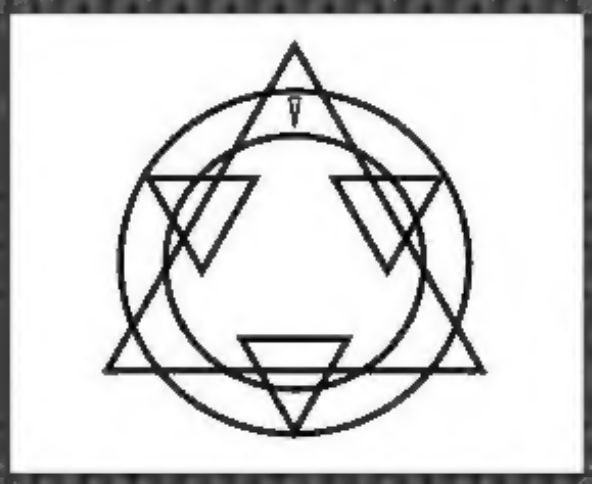
STORY AND ART BY
HIROMU ARAKAWA

18


Grr
Grr
Stupid! Stupid!
Hiromu is stupid!
If you call someone stupid, you're the one who's stupid!!!
I'm spending my 30s arguing with elementary school kids.

My niece and nephew call me "stupid" so often that one day I just had to reply, "I am stupid, and that's why I don't have a real job and spend all my time drawing manga." To which they immediately responded, "You're right!"

—Hiromu Arakawa, 2008



Born in Hokkaido (northern Japan), Hiromu Arakawa first attracted national attention in 1999 with her award-winning manga *Stray Dog*. Her series *Fullmetal Alchemist* debuted in 2001 in Square Enix's monthly manga anthology *Shonen Gangan*.

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

鋼の錬金術師

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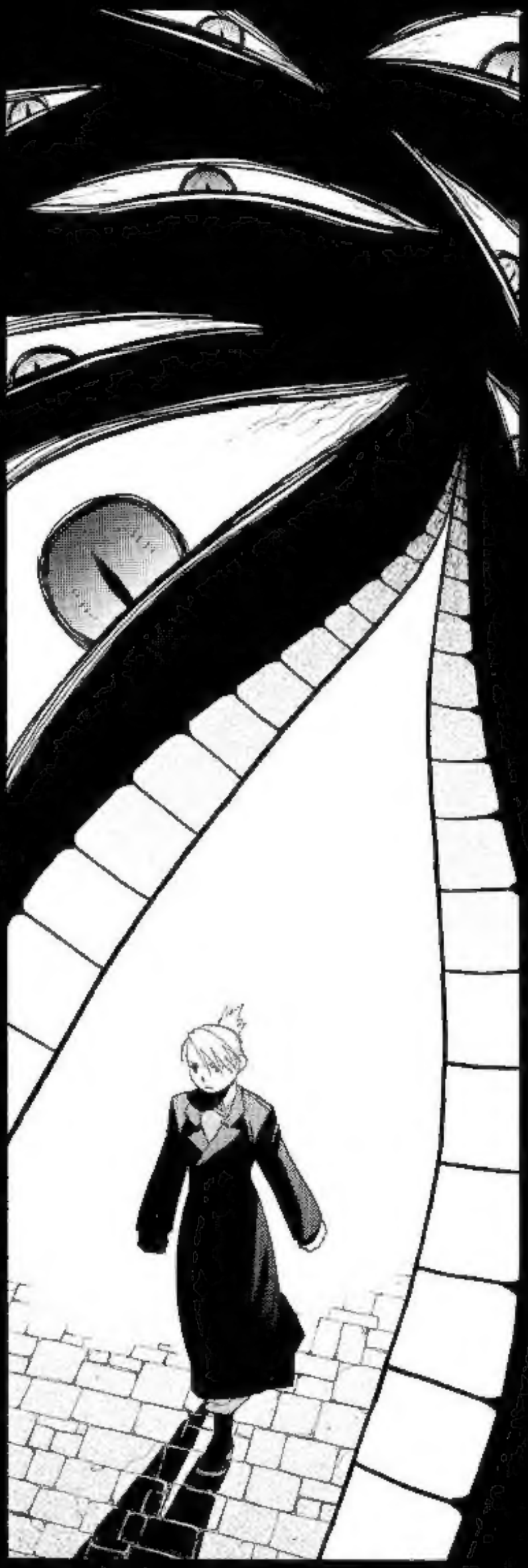
18

荒川弘

HIROMU ARAKAWA



鋼の錬金術師
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

CHARACTERS
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

□ ウィンリィ・ロックベル

Winry Rockbell

□ スカー

Scar

□ リザ・ホークアイ

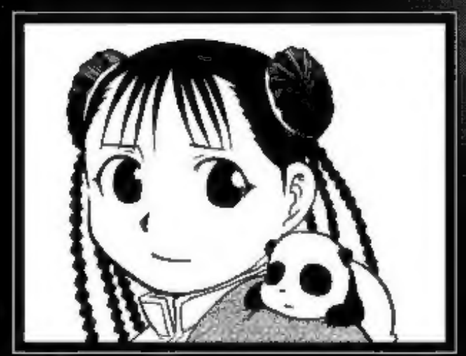
Riza Hawkeye

□ キング・ブラッドレイ

King Bradley

□ ゾルフ・J・キンブリー

Solf J. Kimblee



□ メイ・チャン

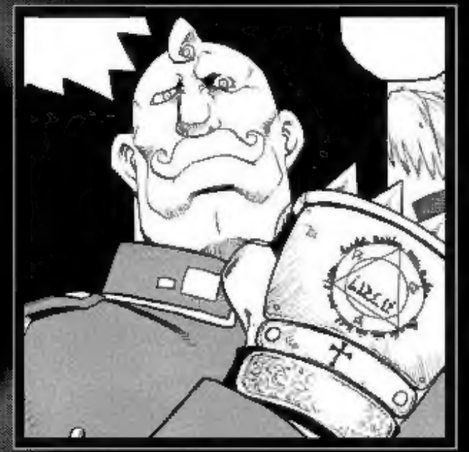
May Chang

□ アルフォンス・エルリック

Alphonse Elric

□ エドワード・エルリック

Edward Elric



□ アレックス・ルイ・アームストロング

Alex Louis Armstrong

□ ロイ・マスタング

Roy Mustang

OUTLINE
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

Using a forbidden alchemical ritual, the Elric brothers attempted to bring their dead mother back to life. But the ritual went wrong, consuming Edward Elric's leg and Alphonse Elric's entire body. At the cost of his arm, Edward was able to graft his brother's soul into a suit of armor. Equipped with mechanical "auto-mail" to replace his missing limbs, Edward becomes a state alchemist in hopes of finding a way to restore their bodies. Their search embroils them in a deadly conspiracy that threatens to take the innocence, if not the lives, of everyone involved.

At Fort Briggs, on the snowbound northern border, the Brothers Elric make a shocking discovery. The bloody history of Amestris, dotted with wars and annexations along every border, has been carefully orchestrated by the Homonculi and their military pawns to achieve a single goal: turning the entire nation into one giant Transmutation Circle! While Major General Armstrong and her loyal soldiers investigate the Homonculi's tunnels beneath Briggs, Ed and Al are stuck behind bars as part of an elaborate ruse to trick Military High Command. While temperatures plummet, the cat-and-mouse game heats up!

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LO OM

I HOPE SOME-ONE COMES TO PICK ME UP SOON.

THEY SURE ARE SERIOUS AROUND HERE.

TEN HUT!

KLANK

SKREECH

IS THIS YOUR LUGGAGE...?

ALLOW ME.

OH! THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

MY NAME IS SOLF J. KIMBLEE.

KLATTA KLATTA

OH? HOW DID YOU KNOW?

THE PRESIDENT TOLD ME.

...WERE YOUR PARENTS THE DOCTORS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AT ISHBAL?

FORGIVE ME, BUT...

MS. ROCKBELL, YOU'RE FROM RESEMBOOL, ARE YOU NOT?

VROOOOM

WHAT ?!

I SEE. IT WAS MY SQUAD THAT RECOVERED YOUR PARENTS' REMAINS FROM THE SITE.

...YES.

WE ARRIVED A MOMENT TOO LATE.

WE WENT TO HELP THEM, BUT BY THE TIME WE GOT THERE, THEY HAD ALREADY BEEN KILLED BY THE ISHBALAN REBELS.

I WISH I COULD HAVE MET THEM.

THEY STAYED TRUE TO THEIR DUTY AS DOCTORS, FOLLOWING THEIR CONSCIENCES TO THE END.

...I SEE.

I ASSUME THAT THE CHILD IN THE PHOTO WAS YOU— THEIR DAUGHTER?

GRIN

WHEN WE SEARCHED THEIR CLINIC, WE FOUND A PICTURE OF THEM WITH AN ADORABLE LITTLE GIRL.

THERE WAS A PHOTO...

IT IS AN HONOR TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, MS. ROCKBELL.

Chapter 70
The First Homunculus

YOU GUYS ARE *ALWAYS* IN A HURRY!

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? I WAS IN A HURRY.

YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST *TOLD* ME YOU WERE GOING NORTH!

IT WAS JUST A SIMPLE MISUNDER-STANDING.

UH, WELL... IT'S *COMPLI-CATED.*

DID YOU DO SOME-THING WRONG? TELL ME THE TRUTH.

WHY DID THEY LOCK YOU UP?

OH, THANK YOU, MR. KIM-BLEE !!

REALLY ?

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE PAPERWORK LATER.

PLEASE REST ASSURED, MS. WINRY...

...THE FULL-METAL ALCHEMIST WILL SOON BE RELEASED.

...

THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF THEM.

I'M SO RE-LIEVED.

NOT AT ALL.

WHISP WHISP

HUH? WHY? HE SEEMS LIKE A PERFECT GENTLE-MAN.

PLUS, HE ADMIRES MY PARENTS.

YOU BETTER NOT TRUST KIMBLEE TOO MUCH.

HEY...

TUG TUG

GASP!

DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT HE DID IN ISHBAL?

A GENTLE-MAN... ?

WHAT THE LIEUTENANT TOLD ME ABOUT ISHBAL IS FROM HER POINT OF VIEW.

HER EXPERIENCE... THAT'S RIGHT...

"I CAN ONLY SPEAK FROM MY EXPERIENCE THERE...".

THWAK

ROLL

ROLL

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!! I'M NOT DONE ADJUSTING YOU YET!!

AAAAGH!!!

I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I WISH I HADN'T!!

YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH WINRY, AREN'T YOU?

FROM THE LIEUTENANT'S.. POINT OF VIEW..

AREN'T YOU? AREN'T YOU? AREN'T YOU?

GAK!!!

DID YOUR BRAIN GET INJURED TOO...?

AIEEEEE!!

HYDROGEN, HELIUM, LITHIUM, BERYLLIUM, BORON, CARBON, NITROGEN, OXYGEN, FLUORIDE, NEON, SODIUM CARBONATE, MAGNESIUM, ALUMINUM, SILICON...

?

FOCUS YOUR MIND... THINK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE... FOCUS!!

PANT PANT PANT

CALM DOWN... CALM YOURSELF, EDWARD ELRIC!!

MUTTER

WHY DID I FALL IN LOVE WITH A WEIRDO LIKE HIM?

SIGH

MUTTER MUTTER

THIS IS CRAZY...

CHROME, MANGANESE, IRON, COBALT, NICKEL, COPPER, ZINC, GALLIUM, GERMANIUM, ARSENIC, BROMINE...

OKAY, NEXT I'M GONNA WORK ON YOUR LEG.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TELL ME BEFORE YOU CONNECT THE NERVES!!

WHY, YOU LITTLE...

SQUEEE SQUEEE

HUH? D-DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

I DIDN'T SAY...

...ANYTHING!!

TWEEK

YEOWCH!!!

SQUEE

SQUEE

IT'S SO LIGHT!

OH...

SKU SKU

HM.

MAKE SURE TO CHANGE YOUR SHOES TOO.

IF IT WORRIES YOU THAT MUCH, I COULD ADD A SHIN GUARD. WANT ME TO?

ARE YOU SURE MATERIALS THIS LIGHT WON'T COMPROMISE ITS DURABILITY?

FEELS KIND OF STRANGE...

OH!

HUH?

LOOM

UH-HUH.

OVERALL, IT'S A LITTLE BIT LESS DURABLE THAN THE PREVIOUS MODEL, BUT I STRENGTHENED ITS KEY FEATURES.

I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE OF MY CLOUT AS A STATE ALCHEMIST.

I DON'T KNOW.

GLARE

HOW COME YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR CELL?

GLARE

IT SUITS ME PERFECTLY !!

I'VE ALREADY GOT THE BEST IN LIGHT-WEIGHT BATTLE AUTO-MAIL— THE MODIFIED M1910 MAD BEAR G !!!

HELL NO !!

JYAKIN!!

HMPH! SO YOU'RE FINALLY UPGRADING TO A COLD CLIMATE MODEL.

ARE YOU UP-GRADING TOO?

HM...

NO THANKS.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND IT EITHER.

SKRIK SKRIK

HEH HEH!

HEY, ED! DO YOU WANT ONE OF THESE?!

IT'S MADE OUT OF DIAMONDS, ISN'T IT?!

WOW, THAT'S AMAZING!! ONLY THE FINGERTIPS HAVE BEEN STRENGTH-ENED !!

SHE'S PRETTY CUTE.

HM? WHO'S THIS CHICK ? YOUR PERSONAL AUTO MAIL ENGINEER, FULL-METAL?

KILL!!!

YAAA! IT'S A GIRL!!

WOW, THIS NORTHERN REGION AUTO MAIL SURE IS INTERESTING ♡

THAT'S MESSED UP

KLANK

KLATTA KLATTA

WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR ?!!

YOU PISSED ME OFF.

HEY !!

YES, PLEASE ! ♡

YAAAY ! ♡

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND MY WORK AREA?

THIS FORT CAN BE KIND OF ***DANGER-OUS.***

JUST DON'T GET TOO EXCITED AND WANDER OFF.

UH..

WHAT ?

OKAY, I'LL BE CAREFUL.

AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT EVERY DAY A GIRL GETS TO SEE NORTHERN REGION AUTO-MAIL TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION!

OF COURSE I DIDN'T JUST COME HERE FOR THE WORK... I WANTED TO RESEARCH COLD CLIMATE AUTO-MAIL TOO.

HEE HEE !

UH-HUH. UH-HUH.

I'VE TRIED VARIOUS CARBON FIBERS, BUT THE VARITECH COMPANY'S SEEM TO WORK THE BEST.

THE CARBON FIBER GAINS ELASTICITY FROM THE FIBERGLASS AND...

I CREATE A COMPOUND MATERIAL BY COMBINING IT WITH FIBERGLASS.

WOULD DURALUMIN PROCESSING GIVE IT GREATER DURABILITY?

LIGHTER MATERIALS CAN'T BE USED ON THE CHAINSAW BLADE ITSELF.

HEY, OLD MAN.

OH, DON'T WORRY.

SHE'S TOO YOUNG FOR ME.

SHE CERTAINLY IS SERIOUS ABOUT HER WORK—JUST LIKE HER PARENTS.

MY TYPE OF GIRL.

WELL, THEN.

KLAK

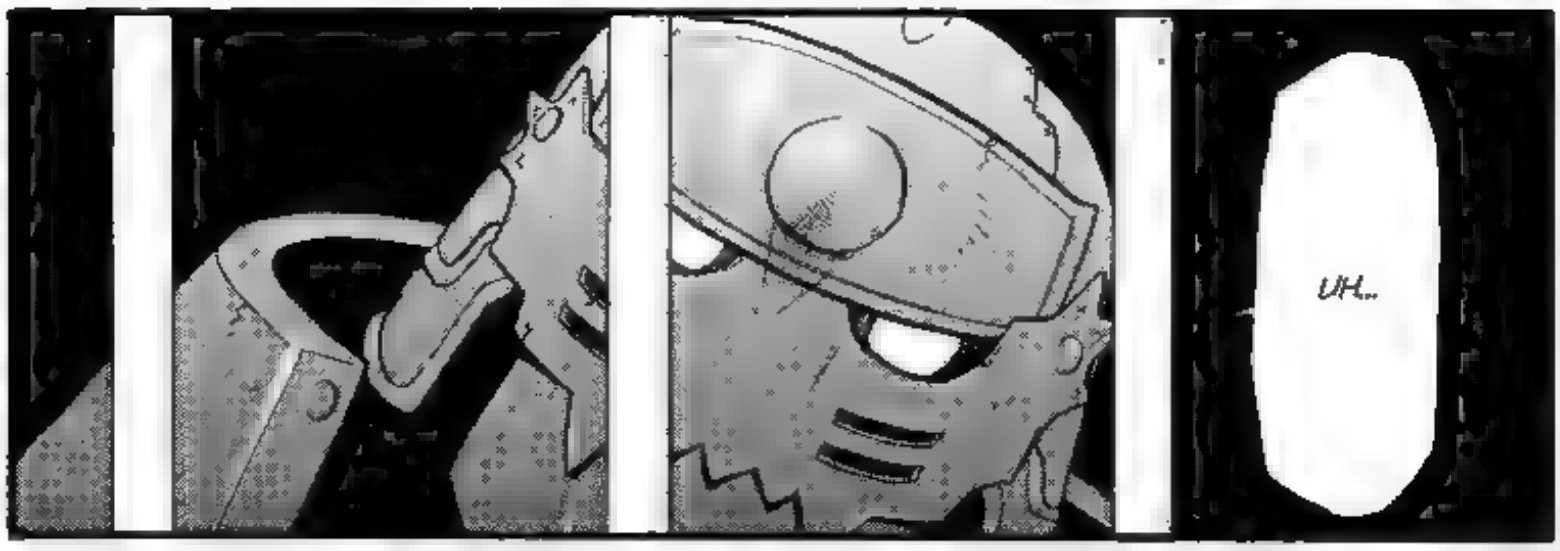
YOU'RE ALL FITTED OUT WITH YOUR NEW AUTO-MAIL, THANKS TO MS. WINRY...

?

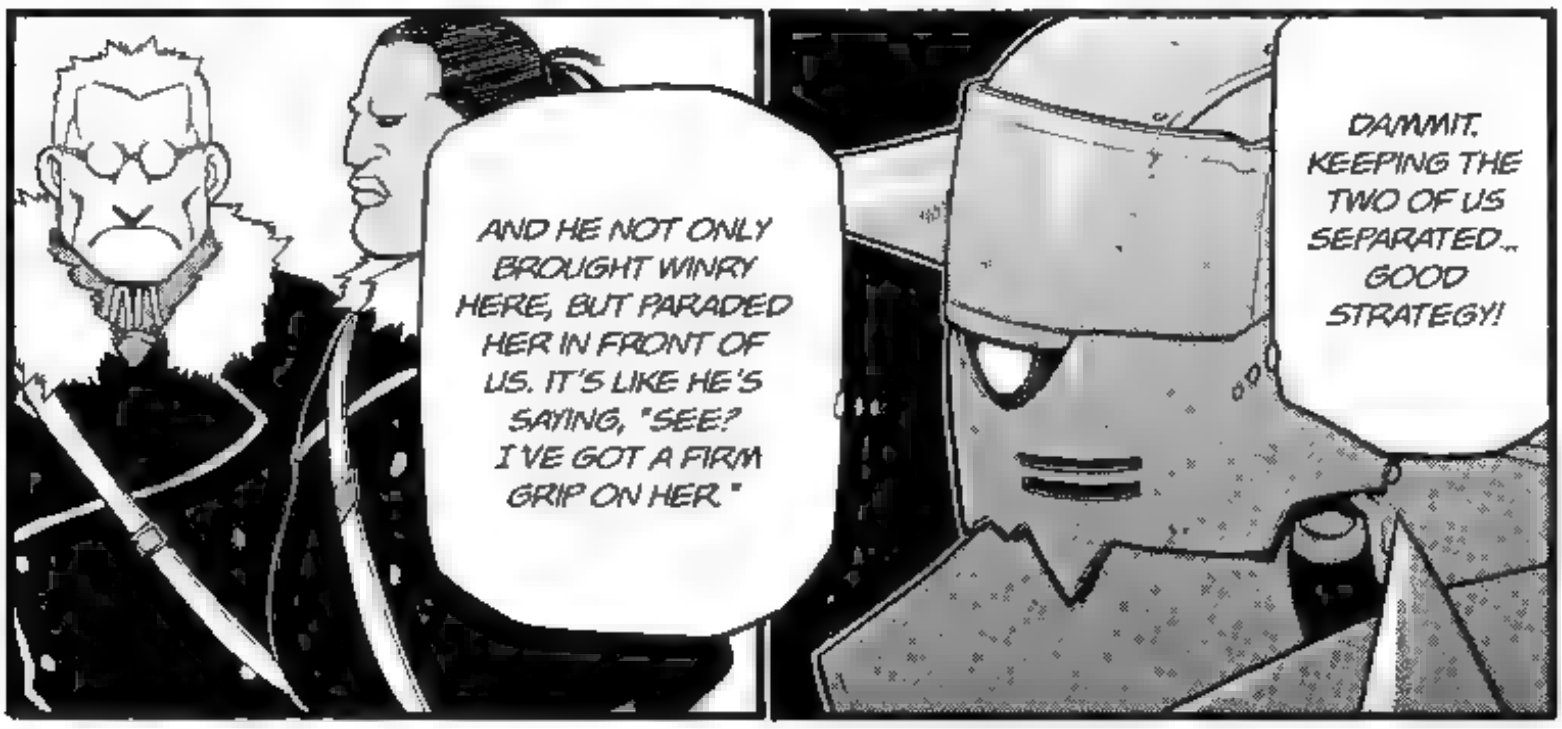
THAT'S A LOAD OFF MY MIND...

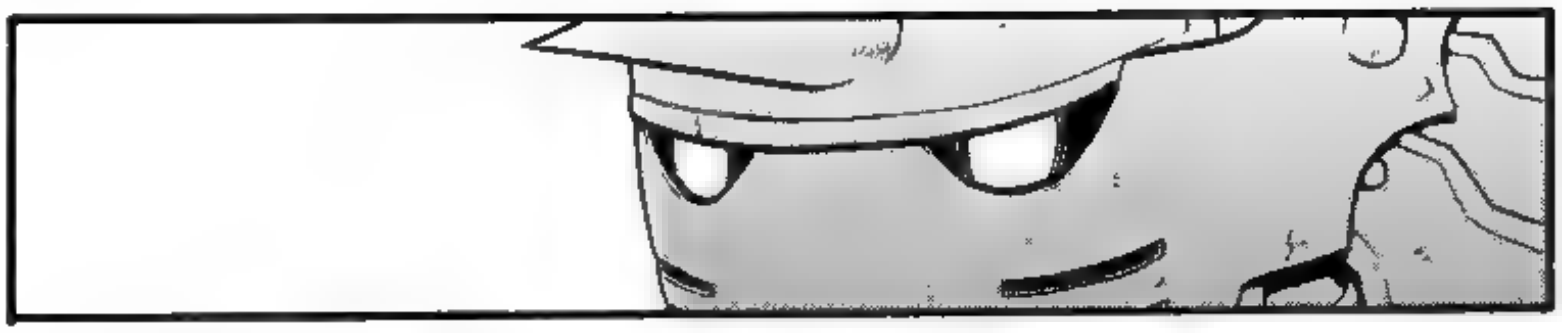
NOW WE CAN FINALLY DISCUSS THE JOB AT HAND...

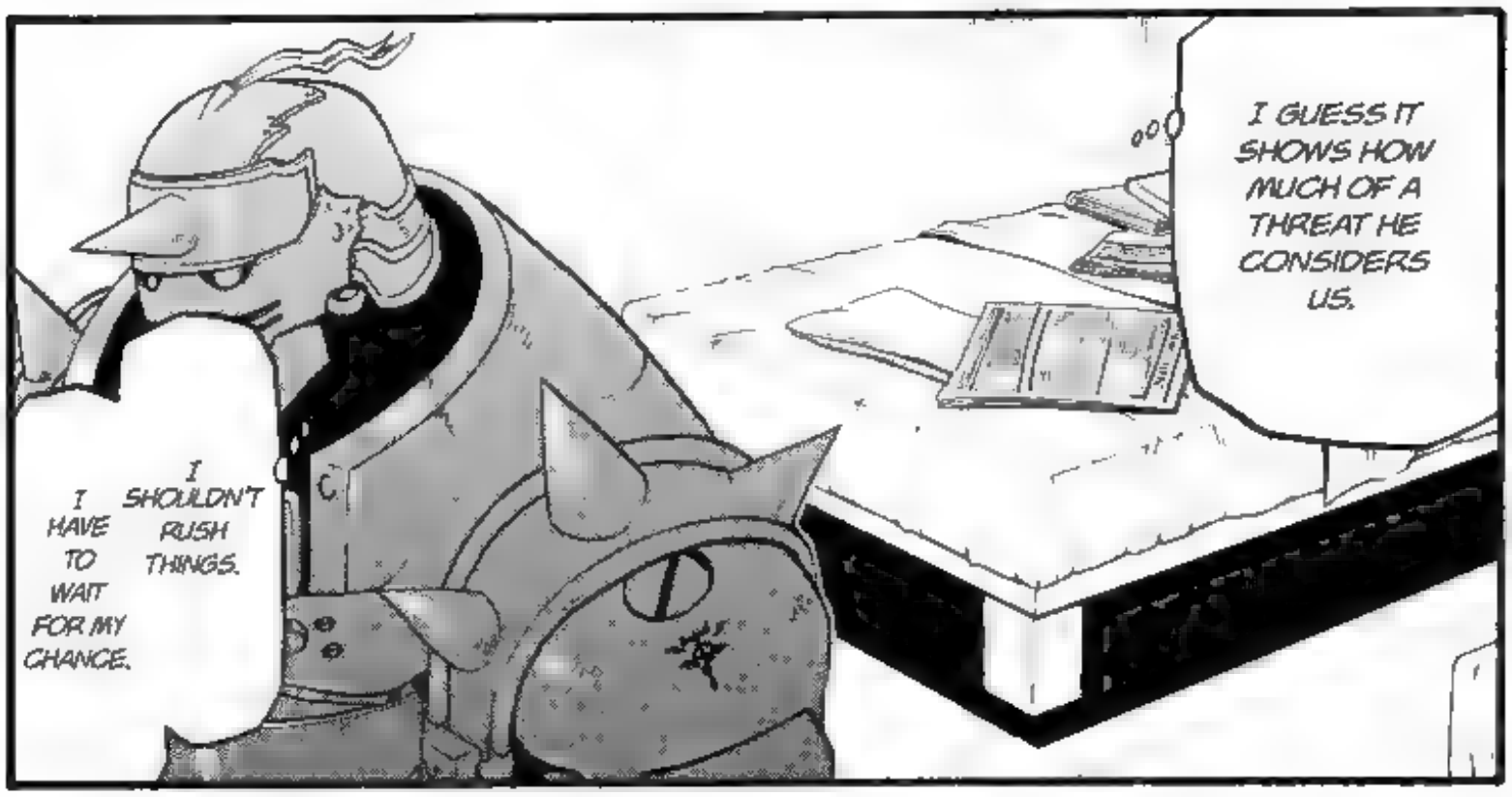
...MR. FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST.

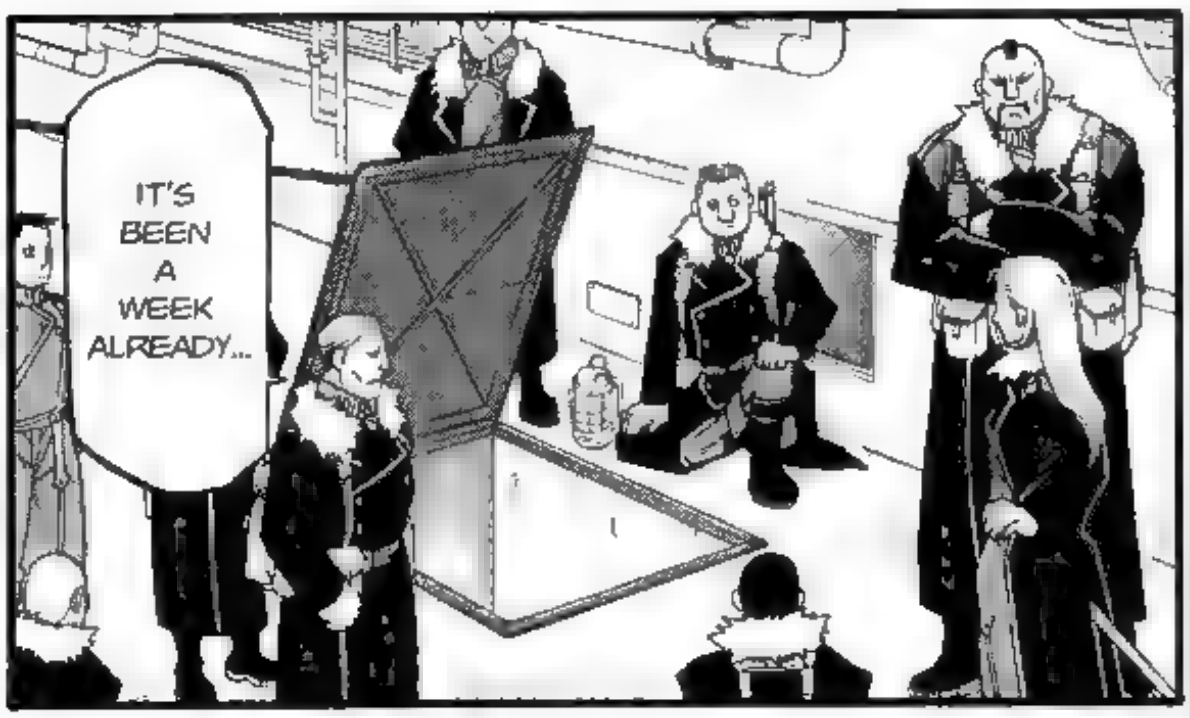

UH...

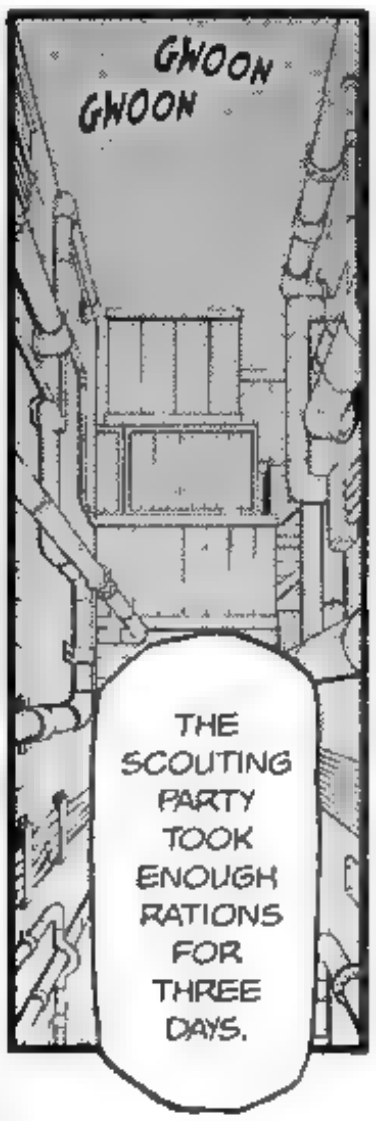
WE'RE UNDER STRICT ORDERS FROM MR. KIMBLEE.
HE TOLD US TO ONLY RELEASE THE FULL-METAL ALCHEMIST.
WHY WON'T YOU LET ME OUT TOO?


AND HE NOT ONLY BROUGHT WINRY HERE, BUT PARADED HER IN FRONT OF US. IT'S LIKE HE'S SAYING, "SEE? I'VE GOT A FIRM GRIP ON HER."
DAMMIT. KEEPING THE TWO OF US SEPARATED... GOOD STRATEGY!




I GUESS IT SHOWS HOW MUCH OF A THREAT HE CONSIDERS US.
I SHOULDN'T RUSH THINGS.
I HAVE TO WAIT FOR MY CHANCE.


IT'S BEEN A WEEK ALREADY...


GWOON
GWOON
THE SCOUTING PARTY TOOK ENOUGH RATIONS FOR THREE DAYS.

IT'S GOING TO BE A CLOSE CALL.

A SOLDIER ISN'T PREPARED TO DEAL WITH A WEEK IN *TOTAL DARKNESS.*

IT'S THEIR *MINDS* I'M MORE CON-CERNED ABOUT.

IF WORST CAME TO WORST, THEY COULD EAT THE HORSES.

THESE AREN'T REGULAR SOLDIERS— THEY'RE BRIGGS MEN.

MA-JOR GEN-ERAL ARM-STRONG...

WE'LL TAKE ALONG A TRANSMITTER, BUT...THE SCOUTING PARTY'S RADIO DIDN'T WORK AT ALL.

SO DON'T COUNT ON HEARING FROM US, SIR.

WHAT ABOUT A CABLE RADIO?

NO, SIR.

WE CAN'T RISK LETTING WHATEVER'S IN THERE FOLLOW THE LINE BACK TO OUR BASE.

CLIK

GO AHEAD AND SEAL UP THE HOLE. PRETEND WE NEVER EXISTED.

WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED DOWN THERE, OR WHAT MIGHT BE WAITING FOR US.

IF WE DON'T RETURN WITHIN 24 HOURS...

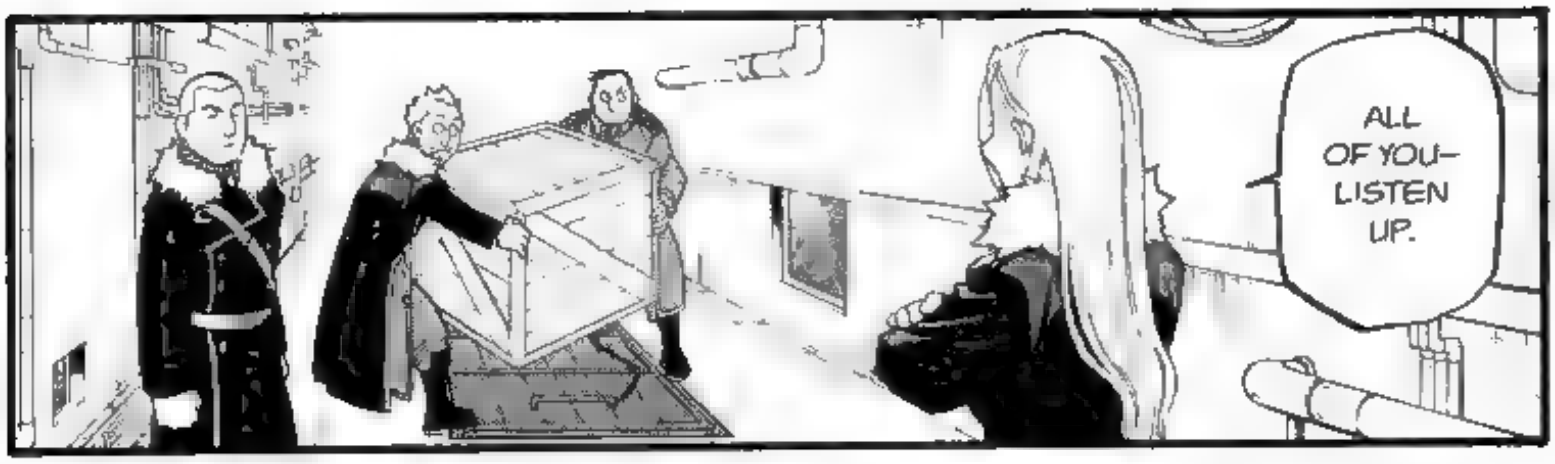
...ASSUME WE AREN'T COMING BACK.

KREEEAK

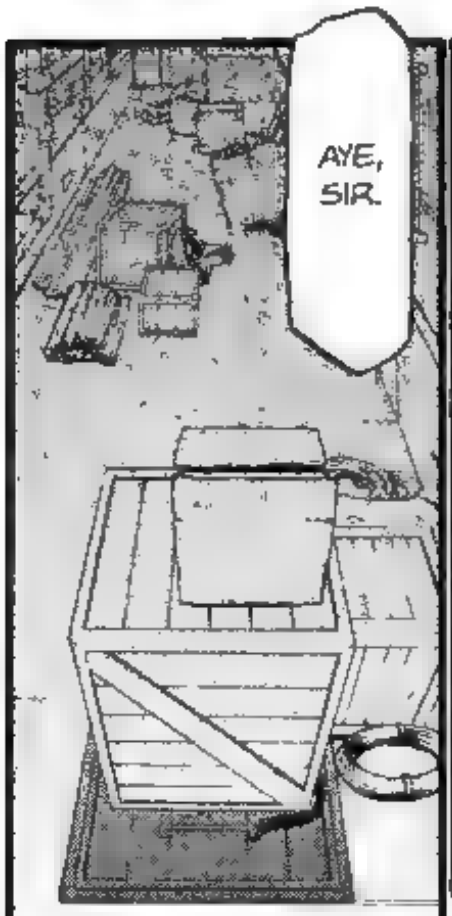
CLUNK

VERY WELL.

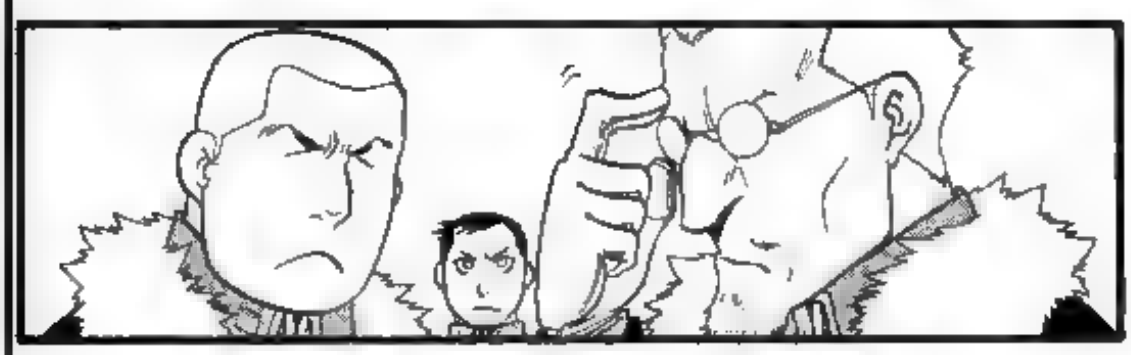
THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO.

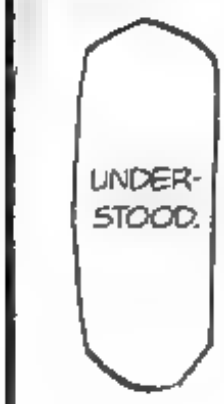

ALL OF YOU– LISTEN UP.

NONE OF YOU SAW OR HEARD ANYTHING.
THE INCIDENT WITH LT. GENERAL RAVEN WAS ALL MY DOING.


AYE, SIR.

IF IT EVER COMES TO LIGHT, PLACE ALL THE BLAME ON ME...
...AND ABANDON ME.




UNDER-STOOD.

KLATTA

THUNK

LET'S *MOVE.*

THIS WAY...

STRIDE

I SEE... SO THE NORTH HAS BECOME MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER.

YUP. FROM NOW ON, WE NEED TO THINK MORE OFFEN-SIVELY.

THAT'S WHY WE WERE IN SUCH A RUSH TO CONTACT YOU.

BUT THE TROOPS THAT FORTIFY BRIGGS ARE TOUGH. AREN'T THEY MORE THAN READY FOR COMBAT WITHOUT THE AID OF THE EAST AREA ARMY?

IT'S NOT SO EASY.

THE BRIGGS GARRISON HAS ALWAYS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON *DEFENSE*.

THEY SAY THAT THE SUREST PATH TO VICTORY IS TO STRIKE FIRST— BUT THAT ONLY WORKS IF YOU'VE GOT THE MUSCLE TO MAKE IT COUNT.

THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO ALLY OURSELVES WITH THE EAST AREA ARMY. IT EXCELS AT OFFENSE.

AT LEAST... THAT'S LADY OLIVIER'S REA-SONING.

I SEE...

THE NORTH WALL OF BRIGGS HAS A CLEAR UNDER-STANDING OF THE LIM TS OF HER STRENGTH.

IT'S TRUE

WE OFTEN CONDUCTED JOINT COMBAT TRAINING WITH THE NORTH AREA ARMY. THEIR DEFENSIVE STRENGTH WAS ALWAYS TOUGH TO BEAT.

"MUSTANG'S NOT THAT KIND OF MAN." LEAST, THAT'S WHAT THE LADY SAID.

"IMPOS-SIBLE."

OKAY, YOU OWE ME 35,200 CENZ FOR THE FLOWERS.

NO. MS. OLIVIER DESIRES ONLY THE STRENGTH OF THE EAST AREA ARMY.

IN FACT, SHE SAID, "MUSTANG CAN GET LOST FOR ALL I CARE."

ZING

HA HA HA!

I'M HONORED THAT THE MAJOR GENERAL HAS CHOSEN *ME* OUT OF SO MANY OTHERS TO BE HER PARTNER!

HERE YOU GO.

I WRAPPED UP THE FLOWERS FOR YOU.

IS THAT SO...?

LET ME ASK YOU SOME-THING... WHAT WOULD SHE DO IF I SOLD THIS INFORMATION TO THE PRESIDENT TO SAVE MY OWN SKIN?

EXACTLY WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

MA'AM.

I'M HONORED.

COME AGAIN, HON'.

SOLD OUT

ME? I'M JUST THE FLOWER-SELLING GRANNY WHO HAS SERVED THE ARMSTRONG FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS.

HUGHES..

IN THE END, THE PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT US THE MOST SEEM TO ALWAYS BE THE COMRADES WE ONCE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE, EH?

BUT RIGHT NOW...

OH MY! HOW RIDICULOUS.

WHO'S THAT?

FLOOF

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH ALL THESE FLOWERS?

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

SOMETHING SURE STINKS DOWN HERE.

LOOK.

UGH.

EVEN THIS METAL HAS BEEN SLICED CLEANLY IN TWO.

IT'S THE SAME AS SMITH'S ARM.

THE ENEMY MIGHT BE CLOSE AT HAND.

STAY ALERT.

DAMN IT... IT'S HOPE-LESS...

CHAK

!!

RSTLE

AAAH...

AAAAAAH!

AAAH...

ALL RIGHT!

TH- THEY'RE ALIVE...

S- SEC- OND LT. HENS- CHEL ?

O... OHH...

HELP IS HERE...

AAAH...

AIEEE!

CALM DOWN.

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM? IT'S ME...

...AND WE GOT SPLIT UP...

THEY... COL- LAPSED...

TURN DOWN THE LIGHT A BIT.

YOU'RE BOTH STILL ALIVE! I'M SO GLAD!

IT WAS WORTH COMING DOWN HERE AFTER ALL.

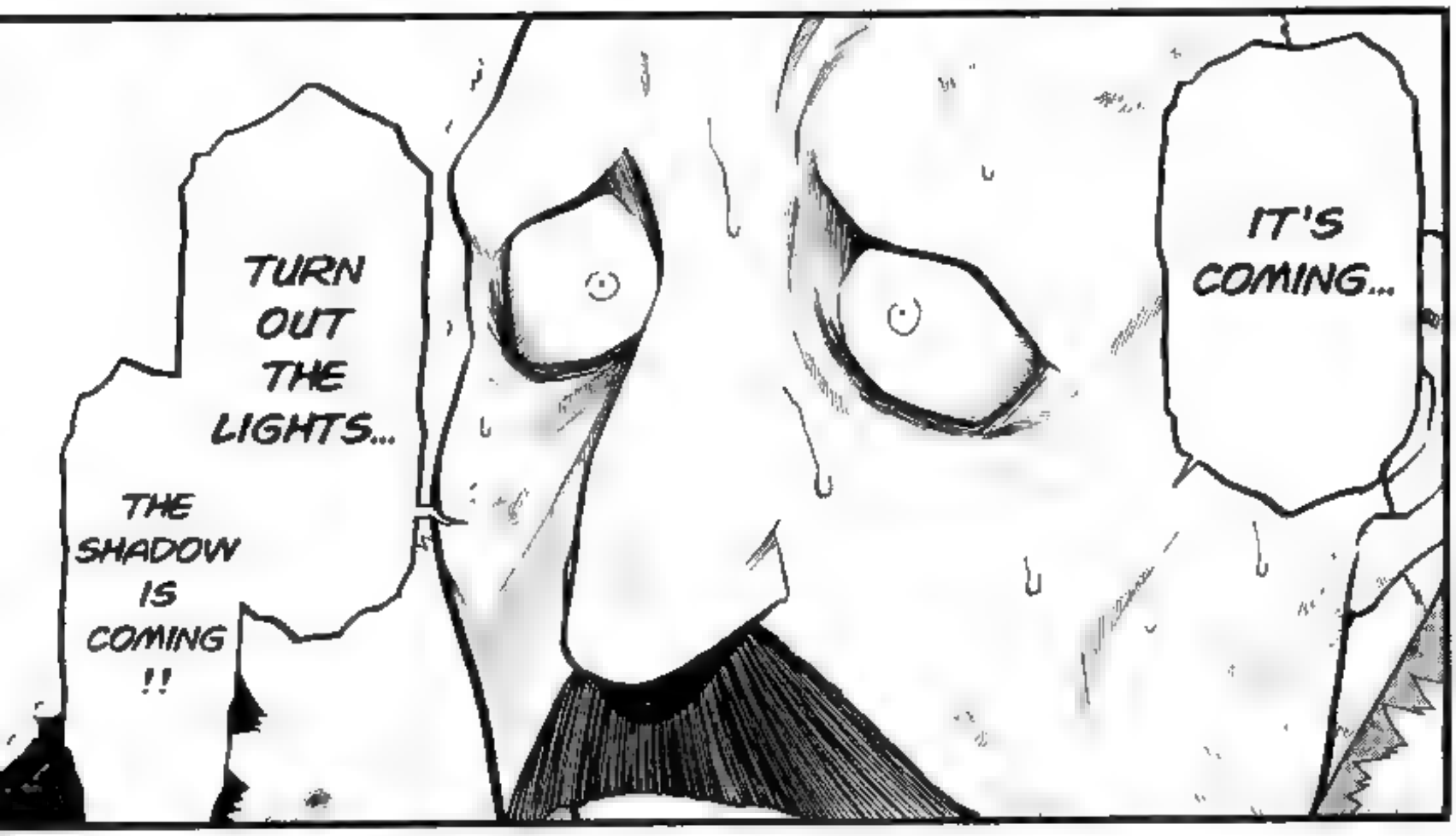
ARE YOU THE ONLY ONES LEFT? WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS ?

THE OTH- ERS...

THE OTH- ERS...

A FEW OTHERS SURVIVED... BUT ALONG THE WAY...

WE...
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT AWAY!!
YES, SIR.
TAKE THEM BACK TO THE BASE.


TURN OUT THE LIGHTS...
THE SHADOW IS COMING !!
IT'S COMING...

WHO'S COMING ?
THE ENEMY ?
HEY !!

THE SHADOW IS COMING !!
RUN...

ZU

ZOOSH

ZU
ZU
ZU

ZU
ZU
ZU

NO !!

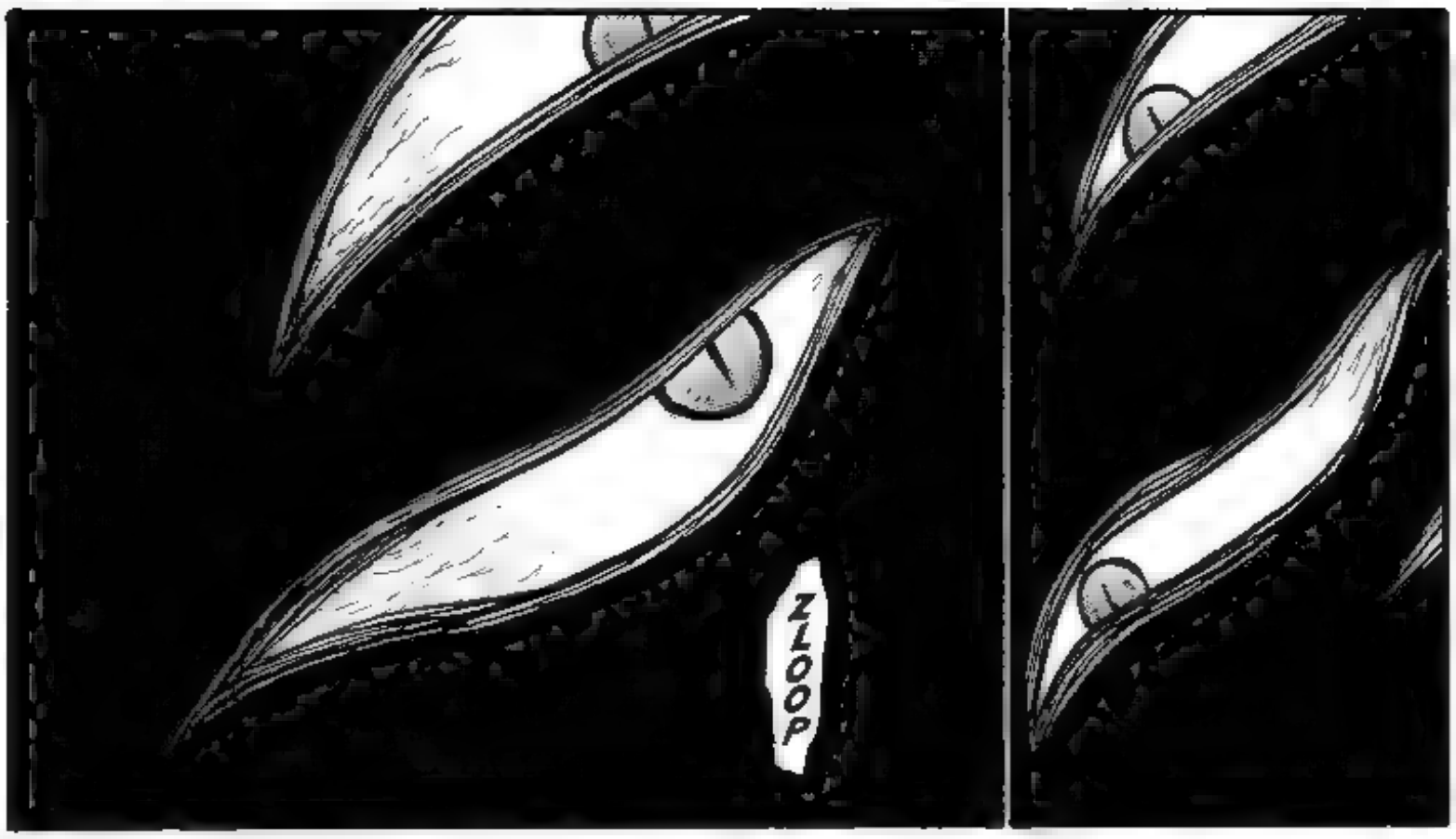
AIEEEE!

ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU

CALM DOWN.

GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF.

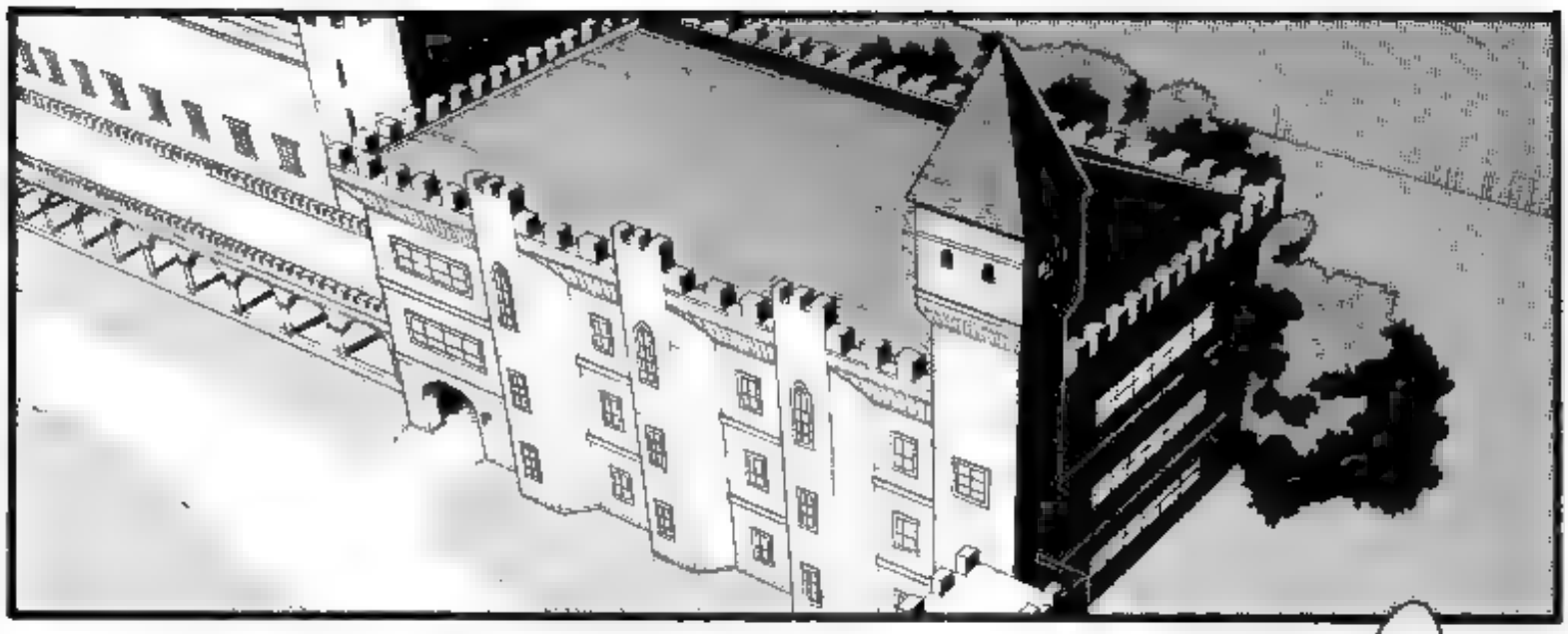
ZU
ZU
ZU


ZLOOP

ZLURP

ZU
LET'S GO.
CARRY THEM AS FAR AS YOU CAN.
ZLURP
ZLURP
ZLURP

ZLURP
CAN YOU STAND?
ZLURP



NOK
NOK
KREEAK

I'LL NEVER GET USED TO IT.
COME IN.
THANK YOU.
THE SECURITY AROUND THE PRESIDENT IS INCREDIBLE!

TEN-

HUT!

I'M SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU SO LATE AT NIGHT.

MY NAME IS LT. HAWKEYE. I'M THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL AIDE.

MADAM..

AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE...?

I HAVE URGENT DOCUMENTS FOR THE PRESIDENT.

OH MY! THEY CERTAINLY HAVE YOU WORKING LATE, DON'T THEY, DEAR?

I'M SO SORRY, BUT MY HUSBAND ISN'T HERE AT THE MOMENT.

I WOULD BE VERY MUCH OBLIGED IF HE COULD LOOK THESE OVER BY TOMORROW.

BY TOMORROW, YOU SAY?

I'LL MAKE SURE HE GETS THESE.

THANK YOU VERY—

GASP!

HELLO

I HEARD A NOISE AT THE FRONT DOOR. I THOUGHT FATHER CAME HOME.

SELIM! YOU'RE STILL UP?

MAS-TER.. SELIM ?

IT'S A PLEA-SURE TO MEET YOU.

GOOD EVENING, LT. HAWKEYE.

SELIM.. THIS IS LT. HAWKEYE, YOUR FATHER'S PERSONAL AIDE.

YES, I CAME TO DELIVER SOME URGENT DOCUMENTS TO THE PRESIDENT.

I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOUR REST.

I'LL BE LEAVING NOW.

YOU'RE STILL WORKING? AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

THANK YOU FOR WORKING SO HARD.

COME, MASTER SELIM. TIME FOR BED.

OTHERWISE, YOU'LL OVERSLEEP TOMORROW.

OKAY.

LEAVING? ALREADY..?

THAT'S TOO BAD.

YOUR SON IS VERY BRIGHT.

HA HA HA, ISN'T HE? HE'S MY PRIDE AND JOY.

SELIM REALLY LOVES HIS STEPFATHER.

I THINK HE WANTS TO BECOME A SOLDIER WHEN HE GROWS UP.

MINE? NO, SELIM IS FROM MY HUSBAND'S FAMILY.

PERHAPS HE GETS HIS OUTGOING NATURE FROM YOUR SIDE OF THE FAMILY?

IF HE WAS OUR OWN SON, I WOULD BE CRITICIZED FOR BEING SO PROUD OF HIM, BUT BECAUSE HE'S ***ADOPTED***, I CAN BRAG ABOUT HIM ALL I WANT!

HO HO HO HO HO HO!

I'M JUST JOK-ING. ♡

HE ISN'T... A DISTANT RELATIVE OF YOURS?

..OH?

COME TO THE BACK ROOM WHERE YOU CAN HAVE SOME TEA WHILE YOU AWAIT MY HUSBAND'S RETURN.

BUT, PLEASE... IT'S TOO COLD TO CHAT HERE.

UH...

NO.

THE BOY IS A DISTANT RELATIVE ON MY ***HUSBAND'S*** SIDE.

OH, REALLY? THAT'S TOO BAD.

I ONLY CAME TO DELIVER THE DOCUMENTS, SO IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

KLAK KLAK KLAK

KLAK KLAK KLAK

AND THAT FEELING I HAD EARLIER...

IT WAS...

THAT BOY IS...

KLAK KLAK KLAK

KLAK KLAK KLAK

JUDGING FROM THE CIRCUM-STANCES THAT LED HIM TO BECOME A HOMUN-CULUS...

...HE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY BLOOD RELATIONS !!

ACCORDING TO THE COLONEL, KING BRADLEY WAS RAISED IN ISOLATION SINCE CHILDHOOD... AS THE SUBJECT OF AN EXPERIMENT.

KLAK

KLAK

SO YOU'VE FOUND ME OUT?

MY MOTHER CAN BE SUCH A CHATTER-BOX.

WHAT A PAIN.

BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE STANDING BEHIND ME I REMEMBER IT CLEARLY.

I FELT A MENACING PRESENCE EARLIER..

A *FAMIL-IAR* PRES-ENCE.

AT FIRST I COULDN'T RECALL WHERE I'D FELT IT BEFORE..

I HAD THE SAME FEELING WHEN THE HOMUNCULUS ***GLUTTONY*** WAS STANDING BEHIND ME.

SELIM BRADLEY..

WHO ARE YOU?

CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT'S RATHER BOLD OF YOU TO QUESTION MY IDENTITY, LT. HAWKEYE.

BUT I WON'T LAY A FINGER ON YOU AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN QUIET ABOUT THIS.

YOU'RE NOT NEARLY SKILLED ENOUGH TO DEFEAT ME.

YOU DISPLAYED GOOD JUDGMENT BY NOT DRAWING YOUR GUN.

YES. IT'S TRUE THAT GLUTTONY AND I ARE THE SAME IN MANY WAYS...

BUT I 'M OFFENDED THAT YOU WOULD EVEN CONSIDER GLUTTONY AND I TO BE IN THE SAME LEAGUE.

AND ?

ARE YOU A HOMUN-CULUS LIKE GLUTTONY ?

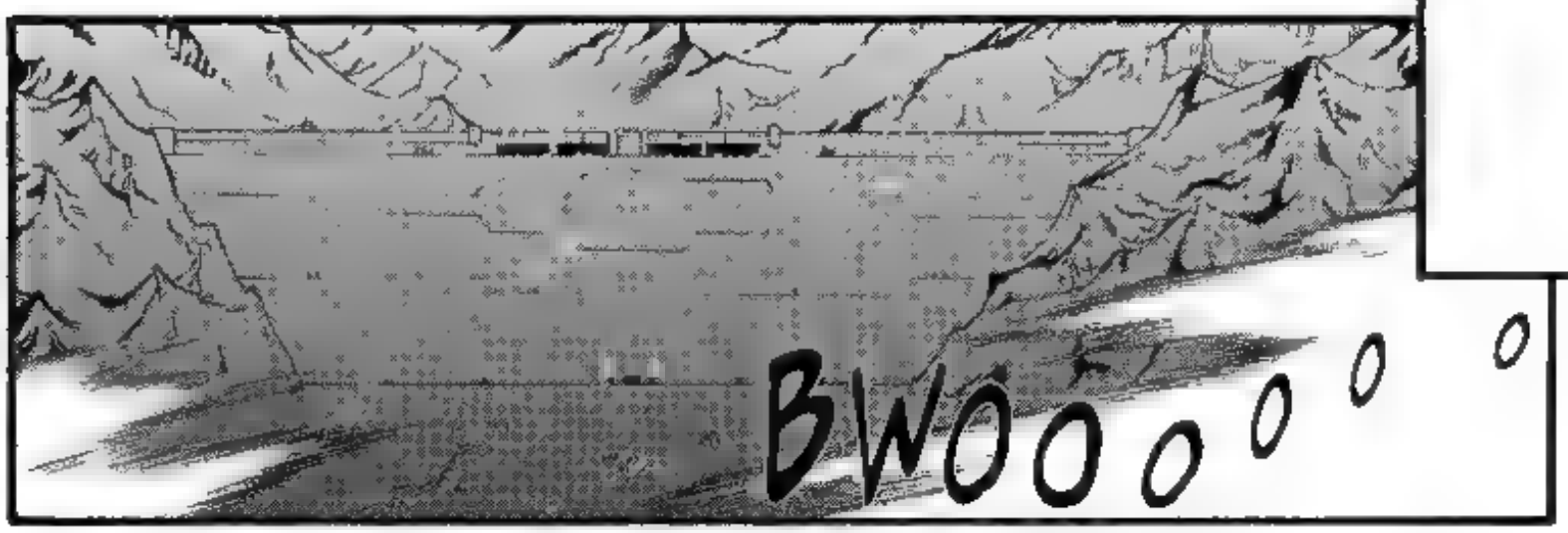
NO... I FEEL SOME KIND OF ***PRESSURE*** COMING FROM YOU THAT'S NOT LIKE THE ONE AROUND GLUTTONY.

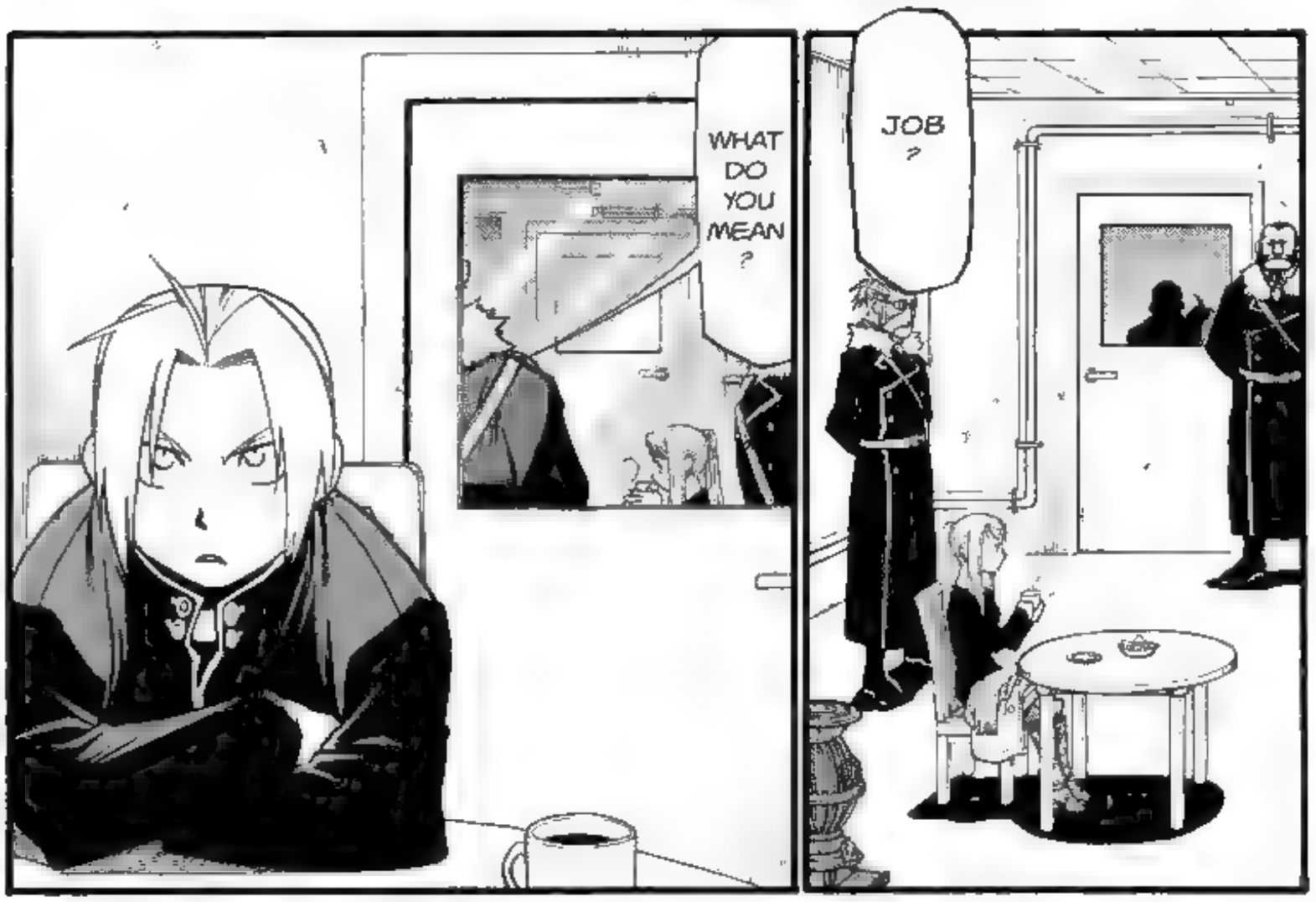
HOW KIND OF YOU...

I AM
THE
FIRST
HOMUNCULUS.

MY
NAME
IS
PRIDE.

ZLOOP


BWOOOOOO


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
JOB?

THAT'S TRUE.
BUT... I'M SURE YOU WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER, WILL YOU?
I RE-FUSE.
KLATA
I'M MERELY ASKING YOU TO FULFILL YOUR DUTIES AS A STATE ALCHEMIST.

NUMBER ONE...

...ALL OF WHICH ARE TO BE CARRIED OUT UNDER MY COMMAND.

THE PRESIDENT HAS GIVEN YOU ***THREE ORDERS***...

YOU ARE TO AID JS IN THE SEARCH FOR SCAR. HE IS THOUGHT TO HAVE ESCAPED HERE TO THE NORTH.

YOU NEED ONLY ***FIND*** HIM.

ELIMI-NATING HIM IS ***MY*** JOB.

NUM-BER TWO...

FIND DR. MARCOH. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE TRAVELING WITH SCAR.

AGAIN, JUST FIND HIM. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

AND NUMBER THREE...

HERE AT BRIGGS...

...YOU WILL CARVE A CREST OF BLOOD.

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

YOU SAY YOU'RE THE "FIRST HOMUNCULUS."

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

JUST WHAT I SAID.

NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS.

ZUZUZU

YOU'RE PLANNING TO DRAW AS MUCH INFORMATION OUT OF ME AS POSSIBLE, AREN'T YOU?

YOU'RE TRULY BRAVE, LT. HAWKEYE.

ZUP

IS THAT SO? WHAT A SHAME.

WELL THEN..

ZU

ZU ZU ZU

YOU MUST BE JOKING!

WHAT YOU WANT ARE CONVENIENT ***PAWNS***, NOT ALLIES.

IMPRESSIVE.

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN OUR SIDE?

ZU

ZOOP

SWOO

SWOO SWOO

NGH

SWOO

SNIK

YOUR THREATS ARE USELESS.

AFTER ALL, WHAT WOULD YOU GAIN BY KILLING ME NOW?

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU SPEAK OF THIS TO ANYONE, DON'T YOU?

COLONEL MUSTANG AND YOUR OTHER FRIENDS WILL NOT GO UNHARMED.

I WILL ALWAYS BE WATCHING YOU FROM THE SHADOWS.

ZU ZU

SLINK SLINK SLINK

YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT.

SWOO

Chapter 71
In the Grip of the Red Lotus

CARVE A CREST OF BLOOD HERE AT BRIGGS...?

YOU WILL JOIN ME IN THIS TASK. CORRECT.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I WILL ALWAYS BE WATCHING YOU FROM THE SHADOWS.

SPIN

WE WILL KILL THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND AND *CREATE* SOMETHING MAGNIFICENT OUT OF THEIR BLOOD AND SORROW.

JUST AS IN ISHBAL...

I *WILL* *NEVER* AGREE TO DO THAT!!

SLAM!!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

!

!!

I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT MS. WINRY BEING A HOSTAGE.

OH MY! SUCH HARSH WORDS.

SO THAT'S WHY SHE'S HERE

TO BE DANGLED AS A HOSTAGE FOR YOU TO NEGOTIATE WITH.

I'M MERELY TELLING YOU TO DO YOUR JOB AS A STATE ALCHEMIST.

THIS IS AN *ORDER*, NOT A *NEGOTIATION.*

ALSO, YOU'RE MISTAKEN ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE...

OR DID YOU BECOME A STATE ALCHEMIST WITHOUT BEING PREPARED TO KILL?

I BECAME A STATE ALCHEMIST BECAUSE I WAS DETERMINED ***NOT*** TO KILL!!

...

DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER? IS THAT WHY YOU'RE HELPING THEM?

YES.

KIMBLEE, DOESN'T ANY OF THIS SEEM ***STRANGE*** TO YOU?

WHAT'S THE MILITARY TRYING TO ACCOM-PLISH BY KILLING ALL OF THESE PEOPLE?

YES, IF YOU STAY TRUE TO THAT PATH, THAT CHOICE COULD BE EQUALLY RELEVANT.

NOT TO KILL, *HM...* ?

I WANT TO SEE HOW THE WORLD WILL CHANGE.

WHY WOULD YOU HELP THEM DO SOME-THING SO WRONG?

..HUH?

I WANT TO SEE WHO WILL WIN.

HUMANS AGAINST THE HOMUNCULI WHO CALL THEMSELVES "EVOLVED HUMANS."

LIFE AGAINST LIFE.

ONE BELIEF CLASHING AGAINST ANOTHER.

THE RE-SOLVE OF ONE SIDE A-GAINST THE OTHER.

WILL A-GAINST WILL.

AND WHICH SIDE THE WORLD WILL CHOOSE.

...AND WHO WILL SURVIVE.

...WHO IS STRONGER...

I WANT TO SEE WHO IS RIGHT...

THAT LAW IS AN EXTREMELY SIMPLE AND POWERFUL TRUTH.

I HEAR THAT THE ONLY LAW HERE IN BRIGGS IS THE SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST.

THESE ARE ALL EXAMPLES OF THE SAME LAW.

ISHBALANS WERE DESTROYED BY THE AMESTRIANS.

OTHERS BY HUMANS...

SOME SPECIES WERE DESTROYED BY THE CLIMATE...

THROUGHOUT THE SPAN OF HISTORY, THAT IS HOW THIS WORLD HAS EVOLVED.

THAT'S ALL IT WOULD COME DOWN TO.

IF HUMANITY IS DESTROYED BY THE "NEW HUMANS"...

THEN THEY SIMPLY DID NOT POSSESS THE REQUISITE STRENGTH TO SURVIVE WITHIN THE GREATER FLOW OF THE UNIVERSE.

BUT IF ***YOU'RE*** A HUMAN BEING, THEN WHY ARE YOU ON THE HOMUNCULI'S SIDE?

IT'S BECAUSE THEY ENABLE ME TO USE MY TALENT TO THE UTMOST.

YOUR... TALENT ?

THEY'VE GIVEN ME COMPLETE FREEDOM TO USE ALCHEMY IN THE SERVICE OF MY DESIRES.

OH !! MAYBE ***YOU'RE*** A HOMUNCULUS TOO?!

NO, I'M NOT.

HOW RUDE !

THAT TEST IS SO FORMULAIC... AS LONG AS YOU ***KNOW*** YOU'RE A HERETIC, YOU CAN PRETEND TO BE NORMAL AND PASS IT WITH EASE.

A "HERETIC"... ?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU PASSED THE PSYCH EVALUATION WHEN YOU APPLIED TO BECOME A STATE ALCHEMIST.

IN ADDITION, THEY SUPPLY ME WITH ALL THE BACKUP I NEED.

IS THERE ANY ORGANIZATION OF HUMANS THAT WOULD DO THAT?

YET IF ONE SUCH AS I SURVIVED, THAT MEANS THE WORLD ACCEPTS ME.

YES.

I'VE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME THAT RELATIVE TO THE NORMS OF SOCIETY, I AM A HERETIC.

IN THIS WAR..

...MY SURVI-VAL— MY VERY EXIST-ENCE— IS AT STAKE.

CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND HOW THRILLING THESE STAKES ARE FOR ME, MR. FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST?

OH. THAT'S TOO BAD.

I THOUGHT THAT ***ALL*** STATE ALCHEMISTS WERE AT LEAST A LITTLE SELF-CENTERED. AFTER ALL...

..WHAT URGE IS MORE BASIC THAN SELF-PRESER-VATION?

CREAK

I'LL NEVER UNDER-STAND!

?

THEN I WILL SPEAK DIRECTLY TO THAT SELF-CENTERED PART OF YOU.

...

YOU STILL DON'T GET IT?

SLAM!

I KNOW THAT YOU BRO-THERS...

...DESIRE *THIS* MORE THAN *ANY-THING!*

...STONE !!

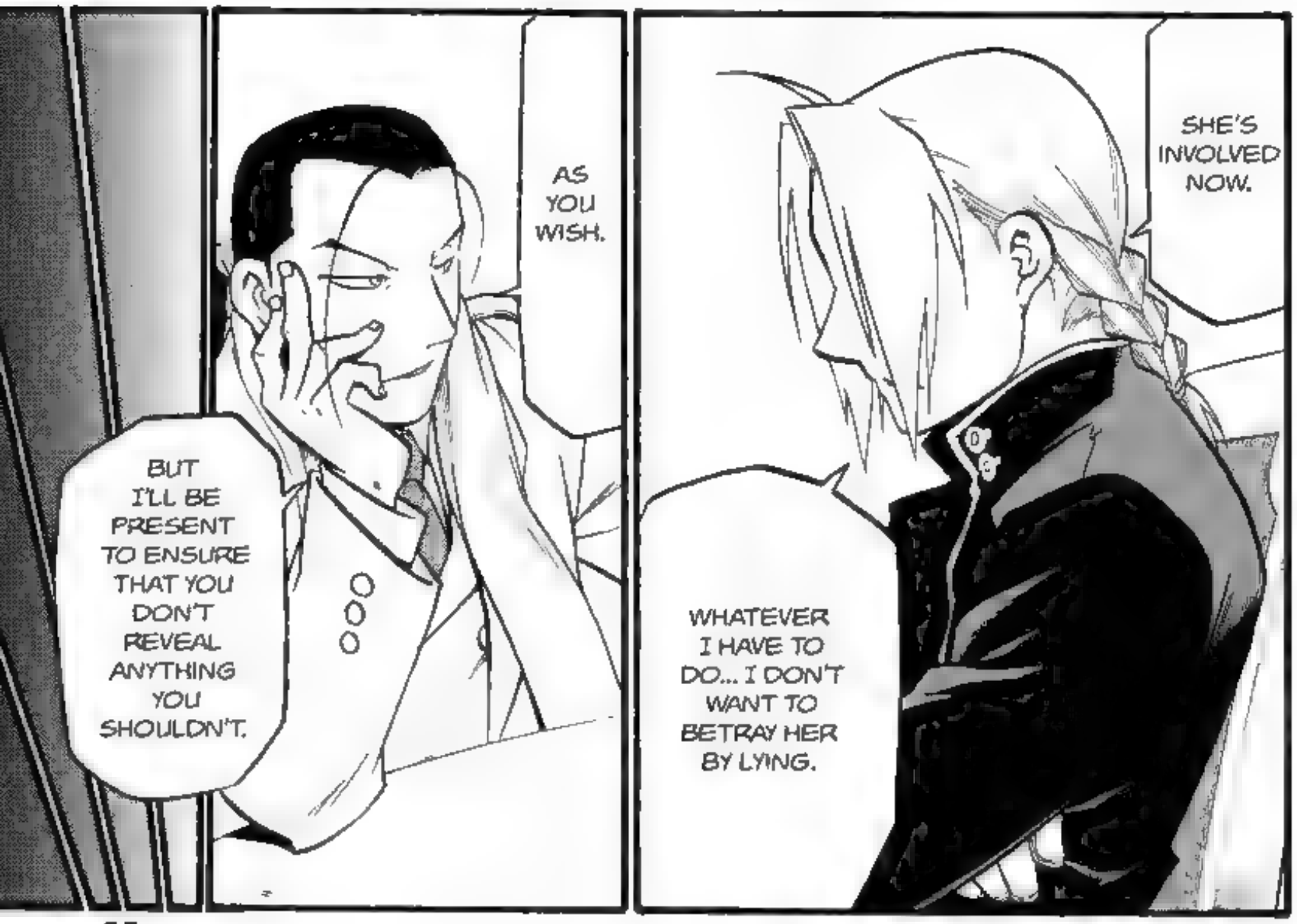
THE PHILOS-OPHER'S...

IF YOU COMPLETE YOUR TASKS, I'LL GIVE THIS TO YOU.

THE PRESI-DENT TOLD ME..

..ABOUT THE CONDITION OF YOUR BROTHER'S BODY.

I HAVEN'T TOLD HER ANYTHING YET.
I CAN'T KEEP THIS FROM HER ANY LONGER.
TO MS. WINRY AS WELL ?
WHY ?
LET ME...
...SPEAK TO AL AND WINRY ABOUT THIS.


AS YOU WISH.
BUT I'LL BE PRESENT TO ENSURE THAT YOU DON'T REVEAL ANYTHING YOU SHOULDN'T.
SHE'S INVOLVED NOW.
WHATEVER I HAVE TO DO... I DON'T WANT TO BETRAY HER BY LYING.

I'LL JUST COME RIGHT OUT AND SAY IT...

WIN-RY...

YOU'RE BEING HELD *HOS-TAGE.*

ED! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

EXPLAIN!

THIS IS NO JOKE.

HUH...?

WHAT?

WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT, AL?

IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?

YOU MEAN...?

I'VE GOT ORDERS FROM ABOVE TO FULFILL MY DUTY AS A HUMAN WEAPON.

...OH.

BE-CAUSE OF *ME.*

WHY DON'T YOU JUST REFUSE ?!

BOLT

YES. I'M BEING TOLD TO COMMIT *MASS MURDER.*

SLUMP

SOR-RY...

I'M JUST MAD AT MYSELF. HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO CLUELESS? WHY DIDN'T I SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON?

AH! D-D-DON'T CRY!!

I'M NOT CRY-ING !

NO, NO..

I'M HOLDING YOU GUYS BACK..

WHAT ?!

HE SAID IF I DO WHAT THEY WANT, HE'LL GIVE ME THE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE.

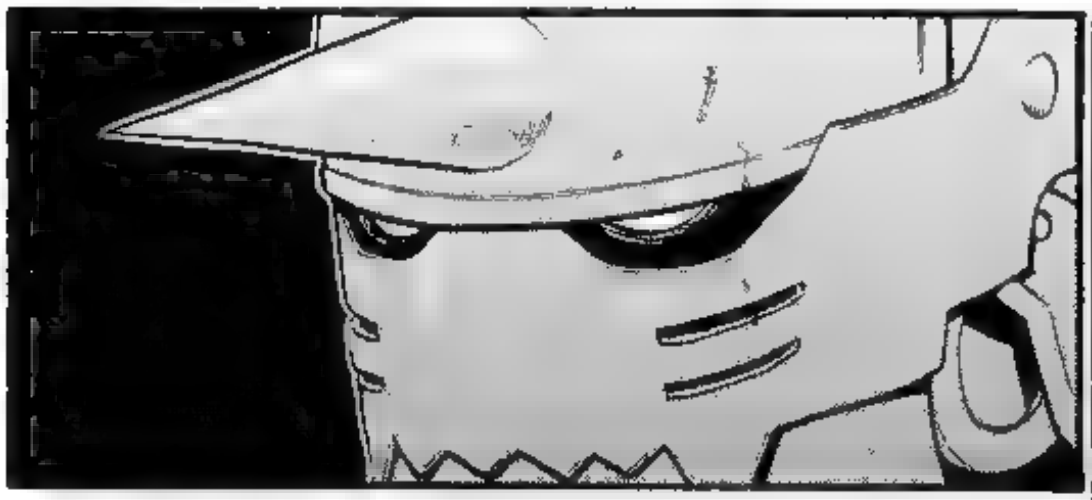
WHY ARE YOU TWO ALWAYS BEING FORCED INTO THINGS LIKE THIS, WHEN ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS GET YOUR ORIGINAL BODIES BACK?

WHY.. ?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN! THE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE IS MADE OF--!!

KIMBLEE HAS IT.

BUT WAIT A SECOND! THE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE IS--



WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET OUR ORIGINAL BODIES BACK.

THE BARGAIN IS THAT I... BECOME A HUMAN WEAPON.

CLACK

...DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.

ALL RIGHT, I WILL.

...

I'LL TAKE...

...THE JOB.

KIMBLEE, I'VE MADE MY DECISION.

"PLEASE," YOU SAY?

YOU'VE BECOME AWFULLY *HUMBLE* ALL OF A SUDDEN.

HMM ?

BUT LET ME BEGIN WITH THE SEARCH FOR SCAR.

PLEASE.

SCAR MURDERED WINRY'S PARENTS.

FOR *HER* SAKE, I CAN'T REST UNTIL I FIND HIM AND *AVENGE* THEIR DEATHS.

ALSO, I'M TAKING AL WITH ME.

SCAR'S ATTACK OF PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION DOESN'T WORK ON AL'S BODY.

HMM. HOW CONVEN-IENT.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO FIXATED ON SCAR. I SEE.

VERY WELL.

I'LL INFORM THE MAJOR GENE-RAL... -AT ONCE..

SLAM

KLAK KLAK KLAK

DON'T WORRY.

WHSP WHSP WHSP

AL... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT WITH THIS?

WHSP WHSP

LOSING OUR BODIES WAS OUR OWN FAULT. WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO GET THEM BACK BY USING SOMETHING THAT WAS CREATED OUT OF THE LIVES OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.

MY BIG BROTHER WOULD NEVER USE THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE TO GET OUR BODIES BACK.

I THINK MY BIG BROTHER'S PRETENDING TO SEARCH FOR SCAR SO HE CAN FIND THAT GIRL.

TO TRICK KIMBLEE, HE NEEDED A MOTIVE THAT WAS BELIEVABLE. THAT'S WHY HE SAID THAT STUFF ABOUT AVENGING YOUR PARENTS' DEATHS.

WE'RE RESEARCHING THE ***PURIFICATION ARTS*** OF XING NOW, IN CASE THERE'S A METHOD IN THAT PRACTICE THAT COULD HELP US GET OUR BODIES BACK.

OUR ONLY LEAD IS A LITTLE GIRL WHO MIGHT BE TRAVELING WITH SCAR.

IT'S OKAY.

YOU GUYS MATTER MORE TO ME RIGHT NOW. YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.

WE DIDN'T MEAN TO USE AUNTY AND UNCLE'S DEATHS LIKE THAT...

SORRY, WINRY.

I NEED TO MAKE UP A BELIEVABLE MOTIVE TOO...

?

WELL, THEN...

THANKS.

ON WHAT AUTHORITY ARE YOU MAKING THIS SELF-SERVING REQUEST?

SO... YOU WANT ME TO PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THE SEARCH FOR SCAR *AND* RELEASE THE ELRIC BROTHERS FROM CUSTODY SO THAT THEY CAN ACCOMPANY YOU?

THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF GAVE ME THE AUTHORITY.

PUT

ANY OBJEC-TIONS ?

I'LL BORROW YOUR TROOPS AND THE BRO-THERS.

THANK YOU, MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG.

NO... IF THIS IS THE PRESIDENT'S WISH, THEN I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS.

OH, I ALMOST FOR-GOT...

IS LT. GENERAL RAVEN STILL MISSING ?

TAKE THE BRO-THERS WITH YOU.

I'LL BE MAKING A REPORT TO CENTRAL CITY HEAD-QUARTERS SOON.

YES.

KLUNK

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO DO THAT.

IS THAT SO...?

KREEAK

BESIDES, IF ALL GOES WELL, SCAR AND KIMBLEE WILL KILL EACH OTHER.

CAN WE AFFORD TO PUT HIM IN CHARGE OF THE SEARCH FOR SCAR?

IT'S THE PRESI-DENT'S ORDERS. I HAVE NO CHOICE.

ACCORDING TO THE MOUNTAIN PATROL SQUAD, THERE'S A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT SCAR AND THE YOUNG GIRL ARE TRAVELING ***TOGETHER.***

THERE'S ONE PIECE OF INFORMATION I'VE HELD BACK FROM KIMBLEE

MILES... I WANT YOU TO GO WITH THEM.

YES, SIR!

"AND BRING THE GIRL WITH THE PURIFI-CATION ARTS HERE..."

"...AS SECRETLY AS POSSIBLE."

DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO THE ELRIC BRO-THERS...

"GIVE SCAR TO KIMBLEE, JUST AS HE ASKED."

WE'LL START BY HEADING EAST TO BUZCOUL.

WE'LL BEGIN OUR SEARCH THERE.

IT'S THE LAST PLACE SCAR WAS SEEN.

VERY WELL.

TUP TUP TUP TUP

HEY, MAKE ROOM FOR ME!

TUP TUP TUP TUP

TOK

TOK

I KNOW.

YOU MAY HANDLE THE DETAILS. BUT I AM IN COMMAND.

SIGH

W-WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

IT'S TOO CRAMP-ED!

AL, SHOVE OVER A LITTLE !

SHUV SHUV

PLEASE WAIT AT THE FORT, MS. WINRY.

WE'RE NOT GOING SIGHT-SEEING.

YES, I KNOW !

SQUISH

HE NEEDS ME WITH HIM IN CASE I NEED TO MAKE REPAIRS.

SQUISH

SQUISH

YOU REALIZE THAT I JUST FITTED ED OUT WITH NEW AUTO-MAIL, RIGHT?

SQUISH

I'VE NEVER MADE A COLD WEATHER MODEL BEFORE. IT MIGHT MALFUNCTION.

IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO ED'S AUTO-MAIL... IT WOULD TARNISH THE ROCKBELL FAMILY NAME!

OUR SHOP STAKES ITS REPUTATION ON OUR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. YOU MAY COME ALONG.

MY FAMILY'S BEEN DOING THIS FOR FOUR GENERATIONS!

FUSS FUSS

YOU SURE ARE OBSESSED WITH YOUR JOB! CRAZY WORKAHOLIC!

OF COURSE! I TAKE PRIDE IN MY WORK!

YES, SIR.

DARIUS... RIDE IN MS. WINRY'S CAR.

HMPH...

I UNDERSTAND MY SITUATION.

BUT...I COULDN'T BEAR TO JUST SIT AND WAIT.

YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE STAYED AT THE FORT, MISS!!

KLATA KLUNK

I... I'M SORRY.

GATA GONK

SI——LENCE

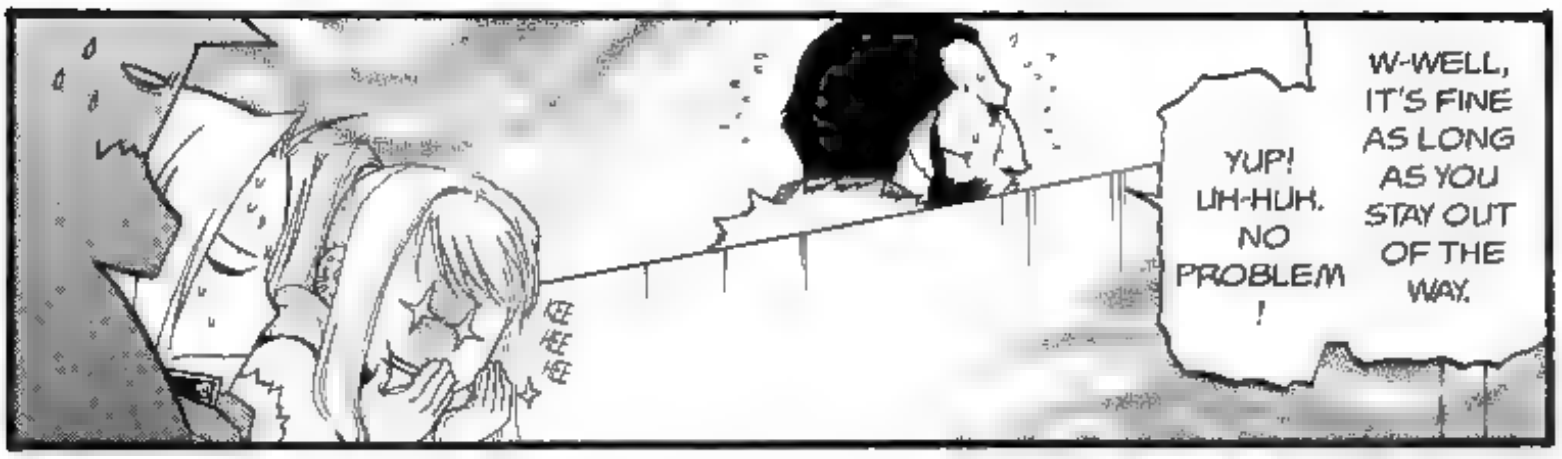
HUH?

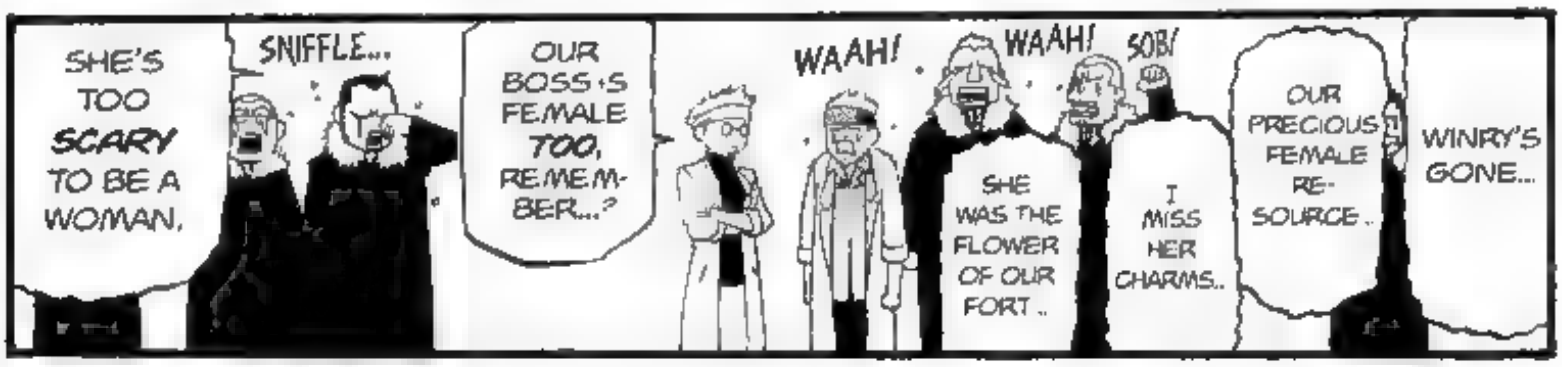
SOMETHING I SAID?

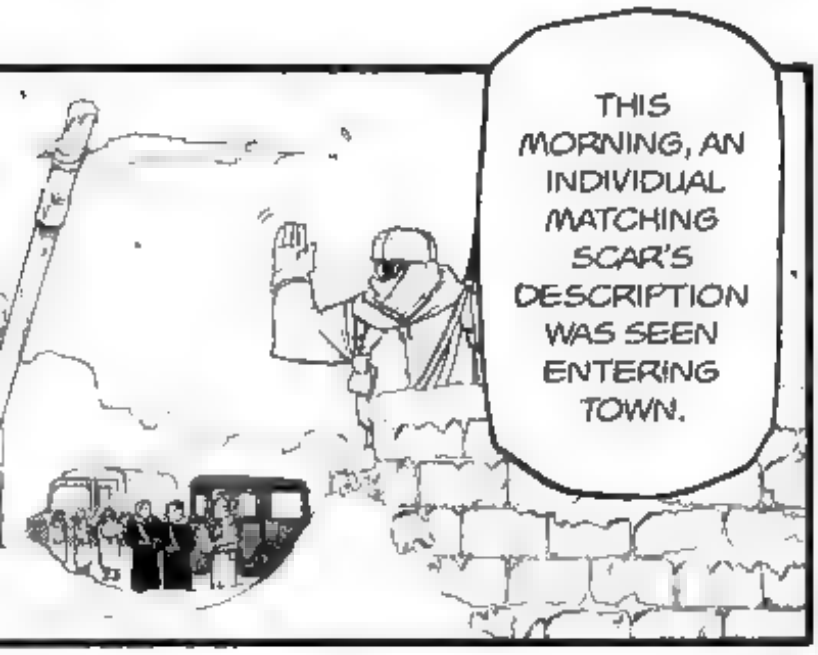
WHA...?

I WANT TO BE WITH THEM.

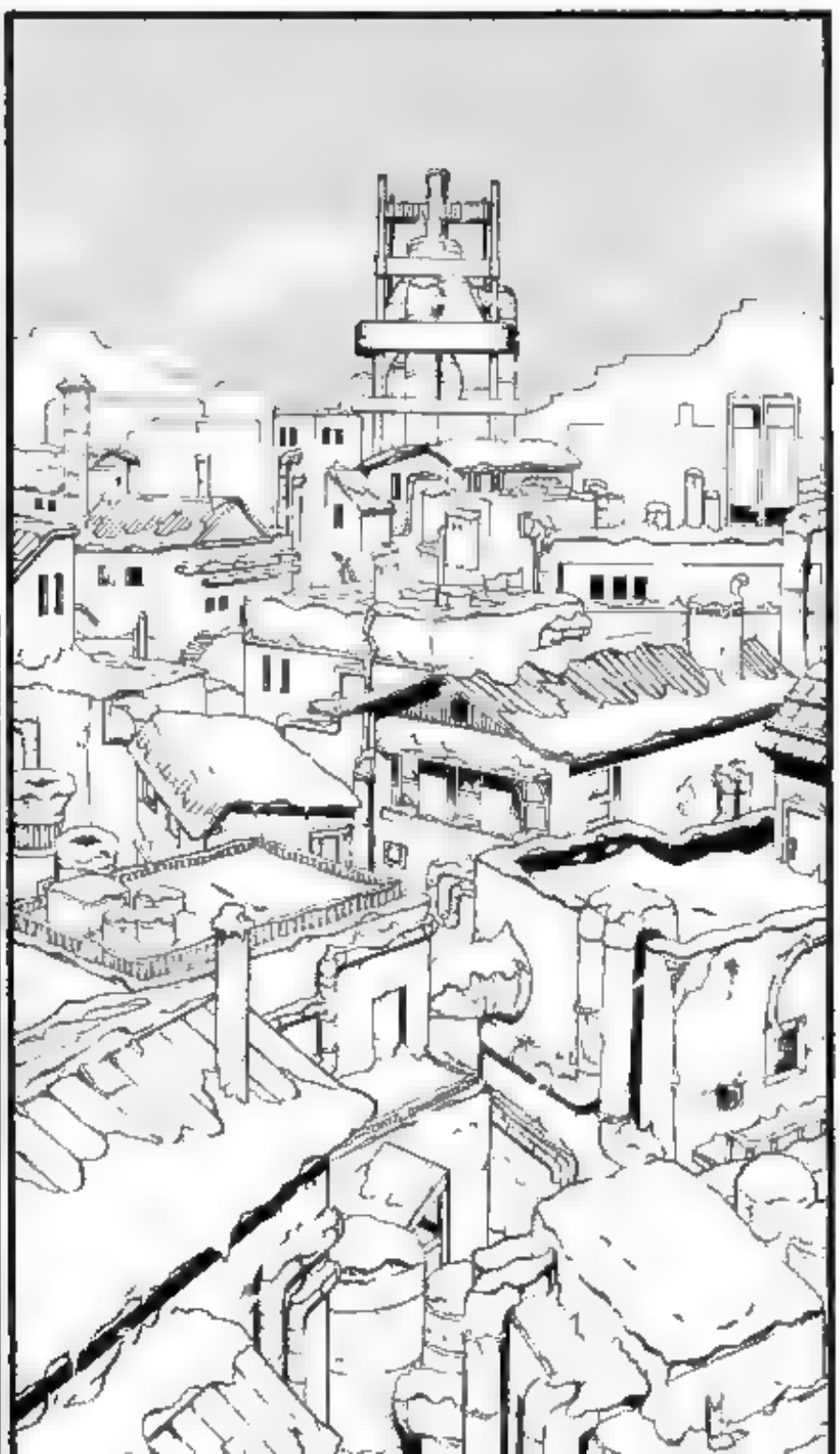
I'M SO SORRY...


W-WELL, IT'S FINE AS LONG AS YOU STAY OUT OF THE WAY.
YUP! UH-HUH. NO PROBLEM!


SHE'S TOO SCARY TO BE A WOMAN.
SNIFFLE...
OUR BOSS'S FEMALE TOO, REMEMBER...?
WAAH!
WAAH!
SOB!
SHE WAS THE FLOWER OF OUR FORT..
I MISS HER CHARMS..
OUR PRECIOUS FEMALE RESOURCE..
WINRY'S GONE...


THIS MORNING, AN INDIVIDUAL MATCHING SCAR'S DESCRIPTION WAS SEEN ENTERING TOWN.

A FORMER MINING TOWN...
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PLACES TO HIDE.
IT'S A BIG PLACE...
FINDING HIM IS GONNA BE HARD WORK.



VERY WELL.

LET ME KNOW THE SECOND YOU FIND SCAR.

CHARLIE SQUAD, YOU REMAIN AT BASE ON STANDBY WITH MR. KIMBLEE. THAT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, SIR?

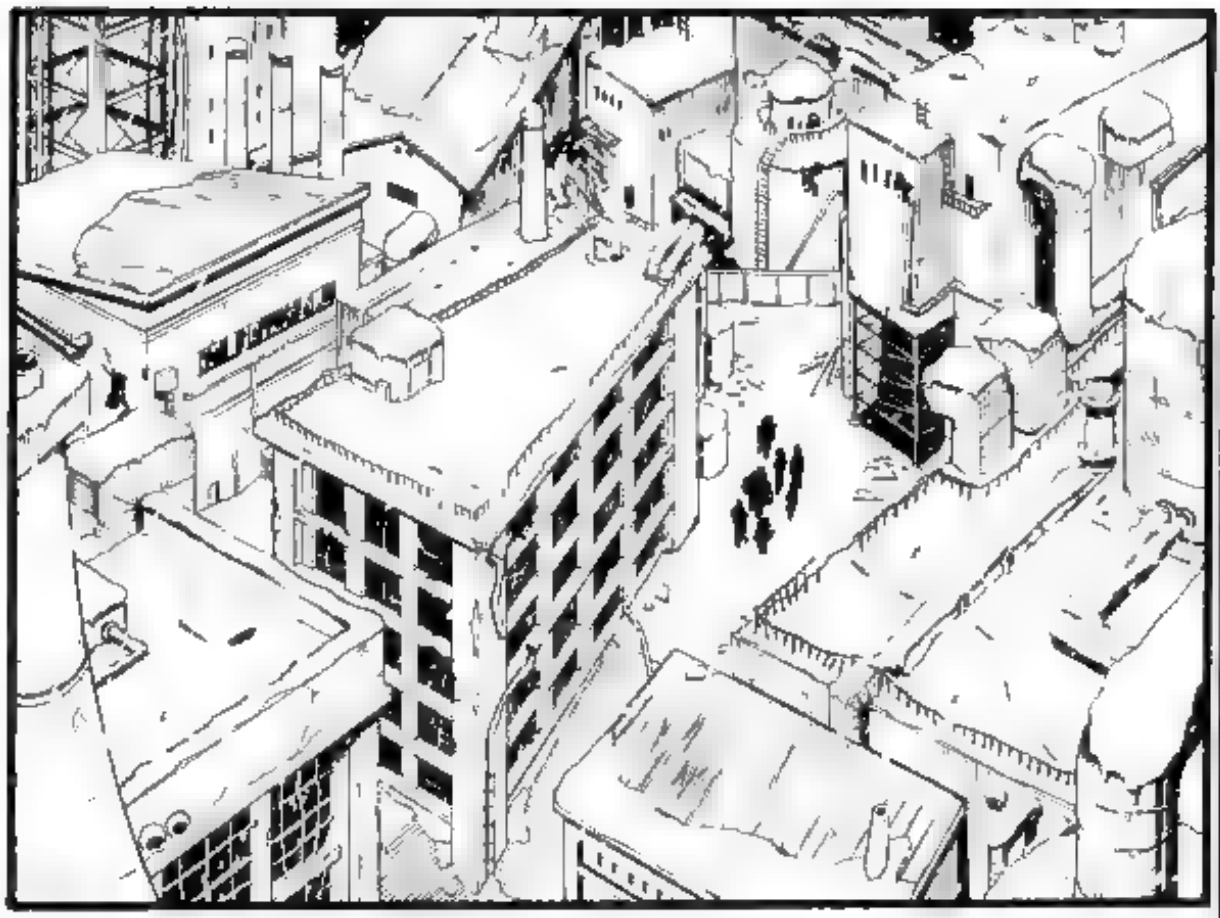
BEN-JAMIN SQUAD FROM SECTOR C5.

ANDREW SQUAD WILL START FROM SEC-TOR C3.

WE'RE ACCOM-PANYING YOU TWO.

!

LOOM



YEAH, YEAH...

KIM-BLEE'S MEN... HERE TO KEEP AN EYE ON US.

CRNCH CRNCH CRNCH CRNCH CRNCH

HOW CAN WE DITCH THESE GUYS?

CRNCH CRNCH

STARE

STARE

HMM....

CRNCH CRNCH CRNCH CRNCH

HEY!! SOMETHING MOVED OVER THERE!!

WHERE ?!

POINK!!

HEY, I SAID, WAIT !!

HURRY UP! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!!

HURRY !!

WAIT A SEC-OND !!

THIS WAY! THIS WAY!

DASH

HL..

..EY?

V A M

SNEAK

LET'S MOVE

DON'T LOSE THEM

MAYBE THEY TOOK THIS SIDE PASSAGE

WHERE'D THEY GO?

AIE YAI YAI!

BUT ..

..LOST THEM.

WE...

..THIS PLACE IS..

...TOO BIG !!

THE ONLY WAY WE COULD FIND THEM HERE IS IF *THEY* FOUND *US!*

SLUMP

COULD IT BE... ? ARE THEY... ?

...NSE !!

TUP

HM ?

HEY...

...AL...

...PHO...

...HEY.

THEY FOUND US!!!

WHAM!!

DARLING !!!!

YOU'RE GLAD...?

...TO SEE *ME*?

MAY! YOU STARTLED ME!!

BUT I SURE AM GLAD TO SEE YOU!

WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

TEE HEE HEE!

WAIT FOR ME!

MR. ALPHONSE... DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY OUT INTO THE SNOW COUNTRY TO CHASE AFTER ME?

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU. I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU. I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU.

?

ZA-ZING!

CONGENITALLY CLUELESS.

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU!! (SO I CAN ASK YOU ABOUT THE PURIFICATION ARTS.)

YUP.

NOOOOO !!!

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU TOO, LITTLE GIRL!

UH-HUH.

ME TOO...

TONK TONK

SHUT UP !!

YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE, MR. EDWARD !!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!

TWO BROTHERS FIGHTING OVER MY AFFECTIONS !!

WHAT? ARE YOU AFTER ME TOO?!

JUST HURRY UP AND COME WITH ME!

EEK! WHAT DO YOU WANT ?!

HUH ?

OH MY! MR. ALPHONSE, WHO IS THIS WOMAN?!

OW, OW, OW!

AL! I JUST HIT MY HEAD !

SNAP

OH. SORRY ABOUT THAT.

ZASH

I HEARD A SHOUT...

MAY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HOW COULD YOU?! I THOUGHT I WAS YOUR GIRL!!

NO, NO! SHE'S JUST A CHILD-HOOD FRIEND!

BUT...WHY AM I JUSTIFYING MYSELF TO YOU LIKE I'M YOUR BOY-FRIEND OR SOME-THING?!

HUH?! WHO ARE YOU, OLD MAN?!

WHAT?! THE ELRIC BRO-THERS?!

OH!! THAT VOICE...

IT'S *ME*.

I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR NOT RECOG-NIZING ME.

WHAAAT?! THE ELRIC BRO-THERS?!

HUH? WHO ARE YOU, OLD MAN?

HUH?

I'D LIKE TO ASK *YOU* THE SAME QUES-TION.

DR. MARCOH?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

ARRRGH!!!

SO... WHO ARE YOU AGAIN?

HOW DARE YOU CALL THE GREAT YOKI A DIRTY BEGGAR!!

DID WE MEET ANY DIRTY BEGGARS IN YOUSWELL, BIG BRO'?

YOU DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED IN THE EASTERN MINES OF YOUSWELL?!

I FOR-GOT.

YOU BETTER NOT HAVE FOR-GOTTEN WHO I AM!!

APPARENTLY, SHE DISAPPEARED WHILE WE WERE UNLOADING OUR EQUIPMENT

I...I'M TER-RIBLY SORRY, SIR.

WHAT HAP-PENED?!

MS. WINRY IS GONE?

YES, SIR.

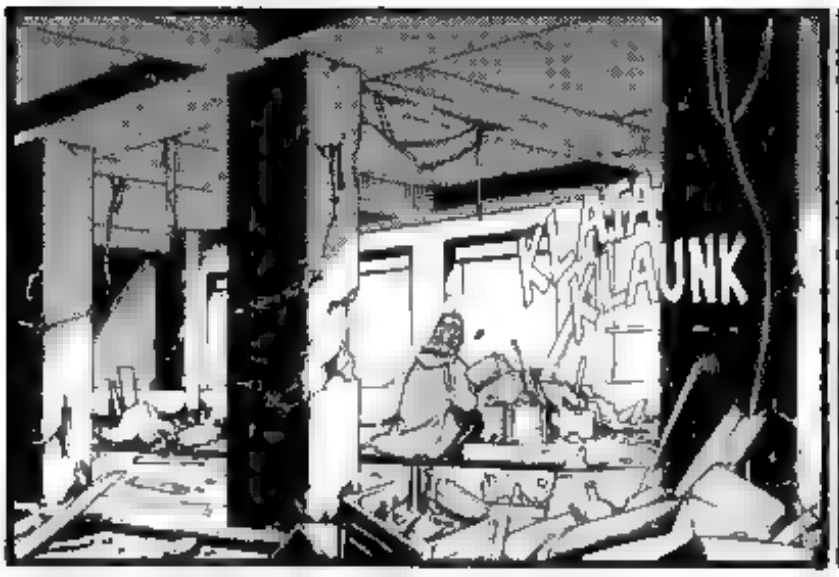
BRING OVER TWO MORE MEN FROM CHARLIE SQUAD.

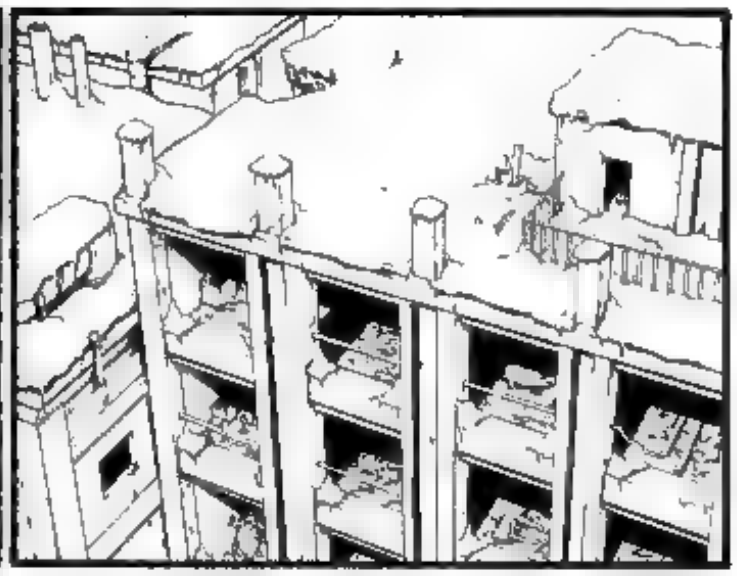
NOW WE HAVE ONE MORE PERSON TO SEARCH FOR.

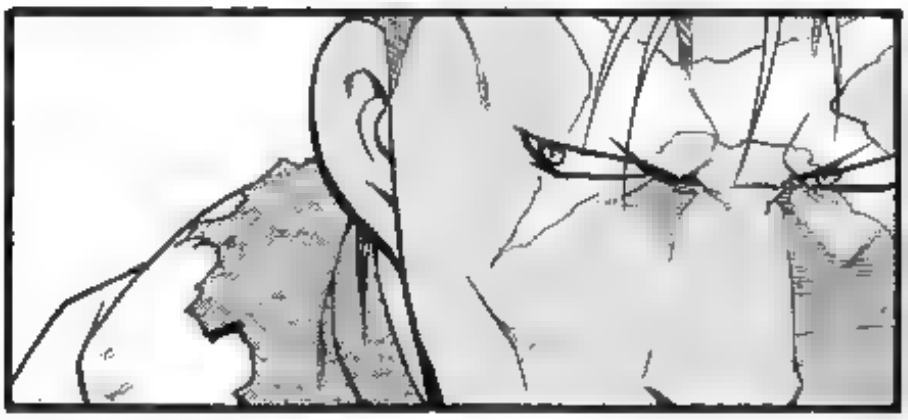
I'LL CONTACT YOU AS SOON AS WE FIND SCAR.

I KNOW.

MAJOR MILES..


KRAAK
KRAAUNK





NO LUCK HERE EITHER
NOTHING EDIBLE...

YOU'RE SCAR, AREN'T YOU?

TCHI

SO... YOU NORTHERN TROOPS FINALLY SNIFFED ME OUT.

SORRY, BUT WE'RE *CENTRAL CITY* TROOPS.

COME WITH US. MR. KIM-BLEE'S WAITING FOR YOU.

DO YOU THINK THE TWO OF YOU STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ME?

FOOL.

IF WE WERE TWO ORDINARY MEN WE'D BE NO MATCH AGAINST YOU, YES.

MEKI

MORK

GLURK

MEKI

MOKI

GLORK

"IF" WE WERE ORDIN-ARY...

...MEN.

SHEER

THIS SHOULD BE FUN.

KRAK

CHI-MERAS, HUH?

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KREEEEEAK

GLEEM

FLINCH

TENT TENT TENT TENT TENT

SHIVE

phew...

CLIK

?

"I'LL ALWAYS BE WATCHING YOU FROM THE SHADOWS."

I'M FINE.

SNIF

SNIF

II

FLINCH

RRRING

BRRING

I'M FINE...

BRRING
RRRING

RING

BRRING
RRRING

..HEL-
LO?

CHAK

THE FLOWERS YOU ORDERED ARE READY FOR DELIVERY.

GOOD EVENING, MADAME.

I GOT DRUNK AND BOUGHT A TON OF FLOWERS.

ALL RIGHT, SORRY...

I DIDN'T ORDER ANY FLOWERS, I'D BE REALLY GRATEFUL IF YOU'D HELP ME GET RID OF SOME.

SIGH...

WHAT'S WRONG...?

REAL-LY...?

ARE YOU SURE?

NOTH-ING, SIR.

T'S NOTH-ING.

WHAT HAPPENED?

I DON'T OWN A VASE.

ABOUT THE FLOW-ERS, SIR..

YES, SIR. I'M SURE.

RUFF?

CLAK

THANK YOU FOR CALLING...

...COL-ONEL.

HOW DOES HE HAVE SUCH UNCANNY TIMING?

SCRUFF

...

Chapter 72
A Chain of Negativity, a Pebble of Goodness

THANKS FOR THE INFOR-MATION.

LONG TIME NO SEE, DR. MARCOH.

NO... I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WORTHY OF YOUR GRATI-TUDE.

HWOOOOO

...THE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE ?

DID YOU FIND OUT MORE ABOUT...

WE LEARNED ABOUT THE WAY IT'S MADE TOO.

UH-HUH.

THANKS TO YOU, WE FOUND OUT ABOUT A *LOT* OF THINGS.

?

?

THERE'S SOME-THING ROTTEN ABOUT THIS COUNTRY...

...AND ITS AL-CHEMY.

BE-TWEEN MAY'S KNOW-LEDGE...

...AND THESE NOTES... IF ONLY *SCAR* WAS HERE..

I SEE.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE. MAYBE NOW WE CAN SORT THINGS OUT.

THAT'S WHY WE WANTED TO FIND MAY—SO WE COULD FIND OUT MORE ABOUT XING'S PURIFICATION ARTS.

KA-BOOM

!

SCAR ?

THAT'S RIGHT! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CHASING AFTER SCAR...

WHAT WAS THAT ?

BEATS ME!

THE ARMY'S HERE LOOKING FOR SCAR.

SOUNDS LIKE THEY MIGHT HAVE FOUND HIM.

WE'LL GO CHECK IT OUT.

RUMBLE

WINRY, YOU AND THE OTHERS STAY HIDDEN.

TMP TMP TMP

CLANK

SCAR..

ZASH

TASH

BAZASS!!

WHOA !!

BAF

WOOSH

NGH.

THIS FATSO IS FAST!

PATOOIE!!

HMOO.

PLAT

PLOP

PLUT

SNIK

HYAH!

PING

PING-PING-TING-TING

BAH

...

YOUR ALCHEMY IS NO THREAT TO ME, AS LONG AS YOU CAN'T TOUCH MY BODY!!

YOU'RE DEFENSELESS AGAINST LONG-RANGE ATTACKS FROM ABOVE AND BELOW!!

SHF SHF SHF SHF SHF

PEH

NOT SO FAST !!

I'VE READ UP ON YOU, SCAR. I KNOW THAT YOUR WAY OF GETTING OUT OF A TIGHT SITUATION IS TO DESTROY THE GROUND UNDER MY FEET.

TUG TUG

!!

SPLOOK

GAAGH!!!

SHNK SHNK SHNK

THEN, WHEN YOU'RE ALL WORN OUT, WE'LL HAND YOU OVER TO MR. KIMBLEE.

WE'LL JUST STAY BACK HERE AND GIVE YOU THE BEATDOWN FROM A DISTANCE.

LOOKS LIKE WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME.

UH-OH.

KLAK

HUH?

THE ELRIC BROTHERS?

BLUE MILITARY UNIFORMS?

THEY MUST BE KIMBLEE'S GOONS FROM CENTRAL.

PFEH! WHAT A PAIN.

THEY'RE CHIMERAS.

SCAR'S ALREADY BEEN CAPTURED.

WE'RE IN LUCK!

BUT...

WE JUST MANAGED TO CAPTURE SCAR WITHOUT—

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.

KA

POW

OOF!

AAAAAH!!! MONSTERS!!!

THE FATSO IN THE BACK HAS A HUGE MOUTH!! HE'S GONNA SWALLOW ME WHOLE!!

THEY'RE TRYING TO TRICK US INTO THINKING THEY'RE ON OUR SIDE SO THEY CAN EAT US!!

OH NO!

LOOK AT THOSE FANGS!!

BIF!

OUR ALLIES AREN'T FREAKS LIKE YOU!!

HEY! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?! WE'RE YOUR ALLIES!

THIS OUGHTA HOLD YOU!!

PEH

PTOOIE!

STU-PID KIDS!!

VAM!!

PEH PEH PEH PEH PEH

AAAAAH!

AH?!

ZIP ZIP ZIP ZIP

VIP VIP VIP VIP VIP VIP

WHAT THE-?!

WH...

BA M

TEE HEE

...

HE'S EVEN FASTER THAN SCAR!

THIS BRAT_

NNO NNO

MUWA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

W-WHAT'S SO FUNNY, BIG BROTHER ?!

PEH PEH PEH PEH

PTOOIE!

WA HA HA HA HA !!!

THOK

FWUMP

UGH!

SNACH

WHO IS THIS BRAT ?!

I CAN'T CATCH HIM!!

WHAT A MO-RON.

NOW THAT HE'S LIGHTER, IT'LL BE HARDER FOR HIM TO BALANCE, OF COURSE.

FLOP

WOBBLE

HUH?!

WA HA HA HA HA--

HUR..

WHY, YOU LITTLE...

PFH

SPLOOK

MY SPEED WENT UP--BUT MY *STRENGTH* WENT *DOWN.*

UH-OH...

MY NEW ARM AND LEG ARE LIGHT AS FEATHERS !!

THEY'RE SO *LIGHT!!*

TA

THIS COLD WEATHER AUTO-MAIL IS *FAN-TASTIC* !!

DAA!!

THIS IS DROOL?! GROSS!!

GLOP

HA HA HA HA HA HA!! MY SPIT DOESN'T COME OFF EASILY!!

CLAP

IF IT'S DROOL THAT MEANS...

SLIDE

PEH

PEH

PEH

PEH

SPLISH

EARGH

...WHEN YOU DE-CONSTRUCT IT, IT'S MOSTLY *WATER!!*

BAM

DASH

EAT THIS !

?

IT'S COLD

WHAT DID YOU PUT ON ME?!

WHAK

SHTICK!

"WET-TONGUE-ON-FREEZING-FLAG-POLE" SPECIAL ATTACK !!!!!

GET OUT OF OUR WAY, FULL-METAL !!

SHUNK

SHUNK

WHOA !!

SHNK

OW OW OW!!

FUME

FUME

WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR, BIG BROTHER ?!

PEEL PEEL

YOU'RE GONNA RIP MY SKIN OFF!!

RIP RIP

AAAAARGH!!!

ALL RIGHT THEN, I'LL PROVE IT!!

IF YOU'RE ON OUR SIDE, PROVE IT!!

YOU LOOK LIKE AN EVIL MONSTER!

SNORT

C'MON!

C'MON!

FIRST OF ALL, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON OUR SIDE!!

SHUT UP, PIG!! I DON'T KNOW ANYONE THAT LOOKS LIKE YOU!!

HAH! ONLY A FOOL SHEATHS HIS WEAPONS IN THE PRESENCE OF AN ENEMY!

SMAK!

NOW'S MY CHANCE!!

ARRGH!

I'LL TRANS-FORM BACK AND—

SNIK

SNIK

YOU WANT HIM TO LAY OFF?

OKAY...

OW OW OW!

LAY OFF OF ME, YOU LITTLE--

SO, ONCE AGAIN, YOU DOGS OF THE MILITARY HAVE COME TO HUNT ME DOWN.

UH-OH...

BZT

FWUMP

BZLASH

GASP!

CHO

TAKE A NAP, TOADY.

SLUMP

HE FREED HIMSELF.

I WILL ELIM-INATE ANYONE WHO GETS IN MY WAY.

CRAK

GIVE YOURSELF UP AND ACCEPT YOUR PUNISH-MENT!

CLANK

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THIS TIME, SCAR.

STRIDE

VOOSH

IS THAT SO?!

CHARGING FORWARD WITHOUT A THOUGHT?

YOUR RIGHT ARM OF STEEL...

...IS MINE !!

GRAB!

HOW FOOL-ISH !

YOU TOOK THE BAIT.

zing
zing
...
KAWHAK
?!
CLAP
THOOM

UH
OH...

FLINCH

!!

SLAM!

BLAST

YOU IDIOT!! WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE ?!!

FZZT

GRAB

...

STAY BACK.

CHAK

CHAK

MAJOR?

THESE GUYS ARE..

HM...

BLUE MILI-TARY UNI-FORMS. THEY MUST BE FROM CENTRAL CITY.

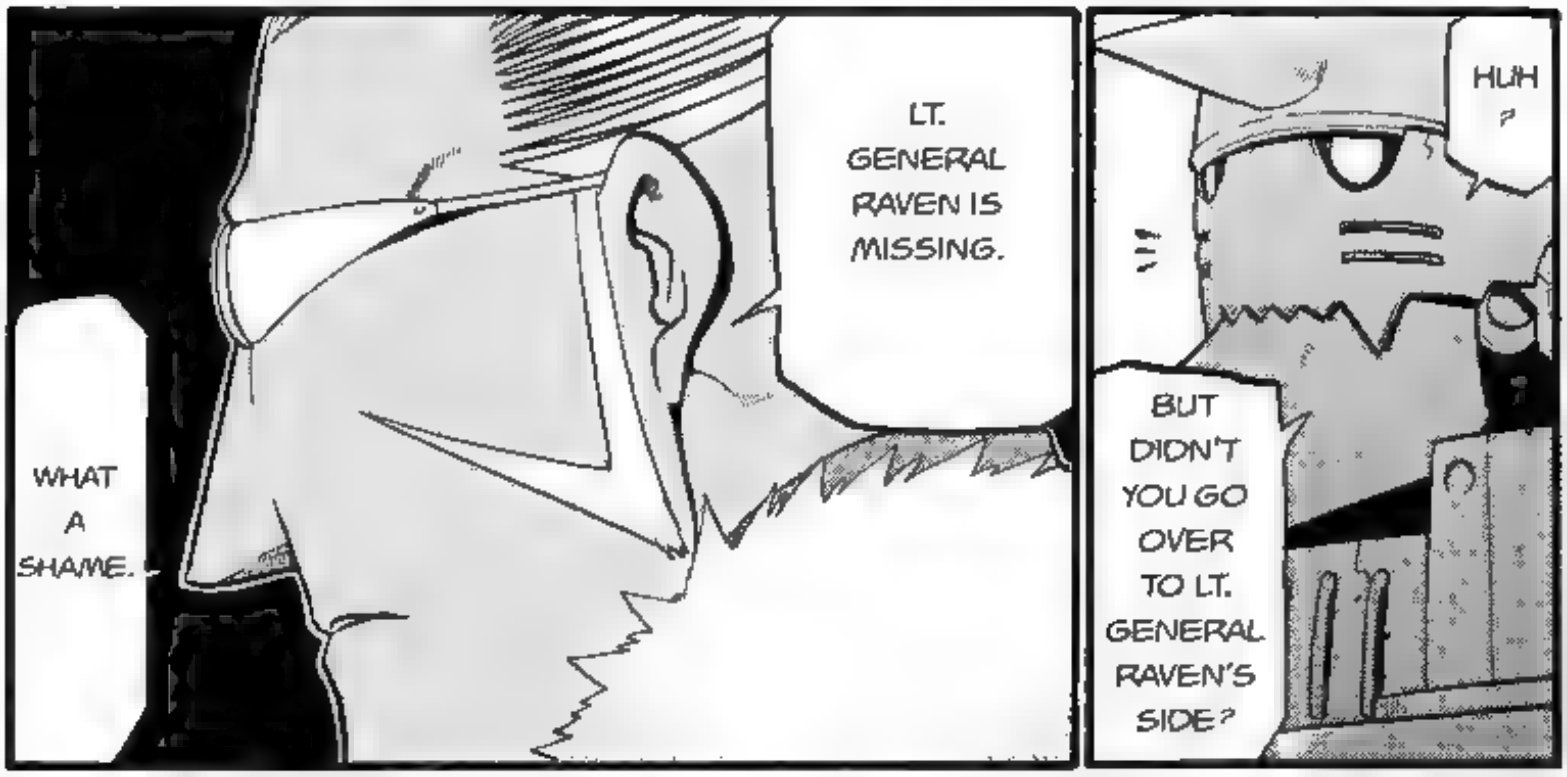
IT SEEMS OUR SUPERIORS ARE CONDUCTING SOME STRANGE EXPERIMENTS INDEED.

AAAH!! WHAT IS THIS THING?

MA-JOR MILES.

WE HAD NO IDEA!
SHRUG
THEY'RE KIM-BLEE'S MEN?

ALL OF US, INCLUDING MAJOR GENERAL ARMSTRONG, ARE ON YOUR SIDE.
DON'T WORRY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIE TO US.


LT. GENERAL RAVEN IS MISSING.
WHAT A SHAME.
HUH?
BUT DIDN'T YOU GO OVER TO LT. GENERAL RAVEN'S SIDE?

TIE UP THOSE TWO FREAKS.
HE'S MIS-SING?

WELL NOW, SCAR.

ONE OF... YOUR OWN?

IT PAINS ME TO PUNISH ONE OF MY OWN PEOPLE, BUT I CAN'T ALLOW SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO GO FREE.

!!

STRIDE

WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

ED, AL...

YOU HAVE MY THANKS FOR AIDING IN SCAR'S CAPTURE.

DON'T GO NEAR HIM!!

WINRY !!

LET ME SPEAK TO HIM.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TALK TO HIM FACE TO FACE.

LET ME GO.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

MISS— STAY AWAY FROM HIM!

IT'S NOT EVEN ***CLOSE*** TO ALL RIGHT!!

WHY DID YOU KILL MY MOM AND DAD?

IT'S TRUE THAT I KILLED THE ROCKBELLS... THE DOCTORS.

ANYTHING I SAY WILL ONLY SOUND LIKE AN EXCUSE...

YOUNG GIRL...

YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO TAKE MY LIFE IN VENGEANCE.

I HAVE NO RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

SHRIP

IF IT ISN'T BOUND, YOU'LL BLEED TO DEATH.

YOUR ARM...

WINRY !!

!!

THIS IS WHAT MY PARENTS WOULD HAVE DONE.

CINCH

TUG

THAT HAS TO MEAN SOME-THING.

MOM AND DAD SAVED HIS LIFE.

...FOR-GIVE ME?

SO YOU...

I HAVEN'T FORGIVEN YOUR CRUELTY.

DON'T MISUNDER-STAND ME.

DO NOT MIS-UNDER-STAND ME.

ENDURING AND FORGIVING ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE SHOULD FORGIVE WHAT THE MILITARY HAS DONE?

WE MUST ENDURE.

BUT WE MUST ALSO ENDURE IT.

BECAUSE SOMEONE MUST SEVER THIS CHAIN OF HATRED.

IT'S OUR DUTY AS HUMAN BEINGS TO BE ANGRY AT IN-JUSTICE.

YOU MUST NOT FORGIVE THE CRUELTY OF THIS WORLD.

IF NEGATIVE FEELINGS BUILD UP, THE FLOW OF THE WORLD WILL BECOME NEGATIVE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S POSSIBLE TO ACCUMULATE POSITIVE FEELINGS AND MAKE THE WORLD FLOW IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION ONCE AGAIN.

WE MUST NOT LOWER OURSELVES TO THE LEVEL OF ANIMALS.

BEING SWEPT AWAY BY ONE'S OWN ANGER IS NO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT A BEAST OR ANIMAL DOES.

EVEN IF THE ENTIRE WORLD DENIES IT, THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT WE ISHBALANS ARE HUMAN.

TUG

SHOULD WE CALL THE BASE, SIR?

YES.

I'M ALL RIGHT.

I WON'T CRY.

...

AFTER ALL, YOU MADE ME PROMISE IF I EVER CRIED AGAIN IT WOULD BE OUT OF HAPPINESS.

HEY, SCAR...

WINRY MIGHT FORGIVE YOU...

...BUT NOTHING WOULD MAKE US HAPPIER THAN BEATING YOU DOWN AND DRAGGING YOU IN FRONT OF THE ROCKBELLS' GRAVES.

YOU— THE ONE NAMED MILES.

THERE'S ONE THING I WANT TO ASK YOU...

WHAT'S THAT?

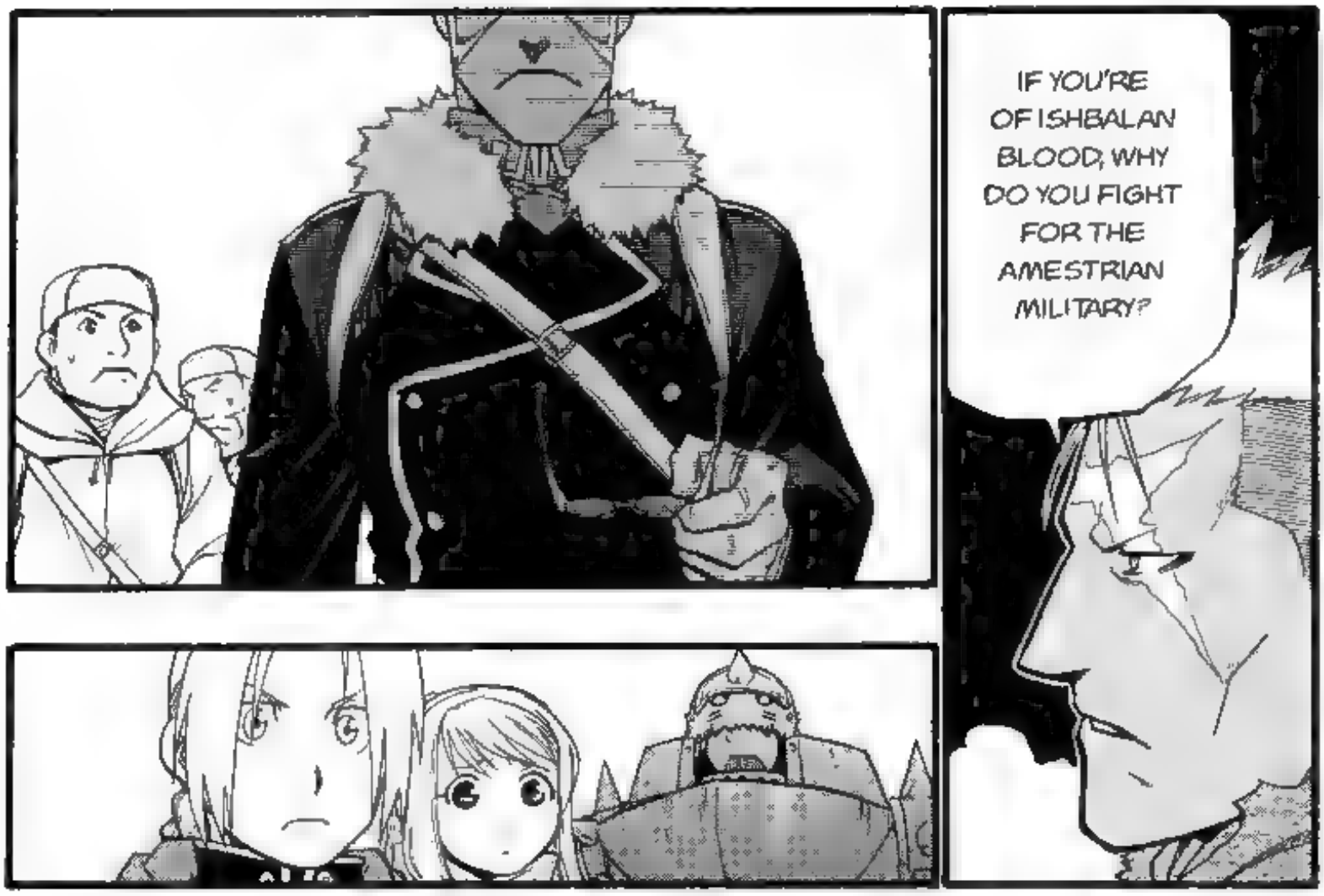
YOU SAID THAT YOU'RE ONE OF MY PEOPLE. WHY?

IT'S TRUE.

MY GRAND-FATHER WAS ISH-BALAN.

I WISH WE COULD'VE MET UNDER DIF-FERENT CIRCUM-STANCES...

...MY RED-EYED BROTHER.


IF YOU'RE OF ISHBALAN BLOOD, WHY DO YOU FIGHT FOR THE AMESTRIAN MILITARY?

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE.
TRUE.
PEOPLE'S HEARTS WON'T CHANGE SO EASILY.

BUT BEING OF MIXED BLOOD, THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ONLY I CAN DO.

SO THAT I CAN CHANGE PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES TOWARDS ISHBALANS FROM WITHIN THIS COUNTRY.

THE PEBBLE'S RIPPLES START SMALL, BUT EVENTUALLY THEY'LL SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE POND.

I AM LIKE A PEBBLE THAT'S BEEN CAST INTO A LARGE POND, AND THAT POND IS THE AMESTRIAN MILITARY.

IRONICALLY, THAT PERSON WAS A PURE-BLOODED AMESTRIAN.

ALSO, SOMEONE CONVINCED ME THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING TO DEVOTE MY LIFE TO THE MILITARY.

OOZE DESERVES NO FORGIVENESS. AND I WILL BURN UNTIL I'M LEFT DEAD IN A DITCH LIKE THE SCUM THAT I AM.

I NEITHER PRAY TO GOD NOR APPEAL TO HIM.

I AM THE OOZE BORN FROM THE OPEN GAPING WOUND THAT WAS ISHBAL.

I'M GLAD TO KNOW THERE'S SOMEONE LIKE YOU IN THE WORLD.

ZSSH CLIK

BASE CAMP... THIS IS MILES.

WE LOCATED SCAR IN BUILDING D5.

ZSSH

TARGET IS CURRENTLY DETAINED.

REQUESTING REINFORCEMENTS.

WE'LL SET OFF A FLARE.

WHERE IS THAT?

BUILDING D5, YOU SAY?

FWAPFWAP

THE WEATHER'S STARTING TO TURN.

IT'S GOING TO GET REALLY BAD OUT HERE REAL SOON, SIR.

OOOOOO

MR. KIMBLEE-- THIS ISN'T GOOD.

NO MATTER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES LED YOU DOWN THIS ROAD, I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO GO FREE.

ADMIT YOUR CRIMES AND ACCEPT YOUR PUNISHMENT.

BWOOd

KIMBLEE SQUAD IS PROCEEDING TO YOUR LOCATION.

CONTINUE TO DETAIN THE ENEMY.

OOOOO

ROGER THAT

WE HAVE TO HURRY!

...BEFORE KIMBLEE FINDS YOU.

MISS, YOU HAVE TO LEAVE...

W-WAIT
!!

PLEASE
DON'T
TAKE
HIM!

?!

WHO
ARE
YOU?

?!

BO
OOm-

GAAGH!!

WHAM

WHAT WAS THAT?!

THAT CAME FROM MAJOR MILES' LOCATION!

KIMBLEE... !! YOU BASTARD !!

THE FULL-METAL ALCHEMIST?

?

?

WHY DIDN'T YOU LEAVE WINRY AT HEADQUARTERS WHERE YOU COULD KEEP AN EYE ON HER?

!!

BWOOO
OOOO

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

AH!

HERE IT IS. I FOUND THE LADDER.

WE FINALLY MADE IT BACK.

TURN ON THE LIGHT.

KLAK KLAK

THUMP

OW!

AAAH!!

CLIK

IT ISN'T FAIR, SIR.

WE DIDN'T KNOW WE'D HAVE TO PUT OUT OUR LANTERNS AND GROPE OUR WAY BACK IN THE DARKNESS.

BADUM BADUM

THEY'VE SEALED THE EXIT ON US FOR SURE.

OH NO... WE'VE ALREADY GONE PAST OUR 24-HOUR WINDOW.

MAYBE THEY WAITED FOR US. YOU NEVER KNOW..

THIS IS THE *ICE QUEEN*, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

I'M SURE SHE SEALED THE EXIT AS SOON AS OUR 24 HOURS WERE UP.

AIEE!

ALL WE COULD GET OUT OF THESE TWO WAS, "IF YOU TURN ON THE LIGHTS, THE MONSTER WILL COME."

WE'RE ALIVE, AREN'T WE? IF WORST COMES TO WORST, I'LL DIG US OUT OF HERE MYSELF WITH THIS RIGHT ARM OF MINE.

NOK NOK

KLAK

WEL-COME BACK, SIR.

KREEEAK

KRE...

I KNOW THAT, SIR, BUT..

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO SEAL OFF THE HOLE AFTER 24 HOURS.

ACCORDING TO THIS WATCH, IT HASN'T BEEN 24 HOURS YET.

WE MADE IT!!

PHEW!

HURRY UP AND GET THESE TWO TO THE MEDICS !

BY THE WAY, I GOT THIS WATCH...

?

WHAT? HOW STRANGE.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S BROKEN.

...FROM MAJOR GENERAL ARM-STRONG.

MAJOR GENE-RAL !

BUCCA-
NEER.

DID YOU FIND THE SCOUT-ING PARTY?

YES, SIR. ONLY TWO SURVI-VORS.

I SEE...

HA HA HA! SORRY TO DISAP-POINT YOU, SIR. GUESS YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME.

YOU'RE SO LATE COMING BACK, I ALMOST GAVE YOU UP FOR DEAD.

BRIGGS IS AT ITS BEST IN THE WINTER.

EVERY THING BE-COMES BLACK AND WHITE.

I LOVE THE *SIM-PLICITY* OF IT.

MAY I ASK WHAT YOU'RE DOING UP HERE?

SURE.

I WAS LOOKING AT THE *MOUN-*TAINS.

BUT, SIR..

IS THAT RIGHT?

NOTHING IN THE WORLD IS PURELY BLACK AND WHITE— INCLUDING THE HEARTS OF MEN.

IF YOU LOOK UP YOU CAN ALSO SEE ***BLUE.***

BEAM

OR WOMEN, AS THE CASE MAY BE. THANKS FOR SHOWING US SOLDIERS SOME MERCY.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

HM...

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT COMPANY, MA'AM.

...

Chapter 73
A Daydream

FIRST, WE CAN'T LET THEM KNOW THAT MARCOH IS HERE.

ALSO, WE CAN'T LET SCAR GET CAPTURED BECAUSE WE NEED HIM TO TRANSLATE THE RESEARCH NOTES.

AND WE MUST NOT ALLOW THEM TO FIND OUT THAT THE ELRIC BROTHERS ARE INVOLVED IN ANY OF THIS.

WE NEED TO FREE MS. ROCKBELL FROM BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY THE CENTRAL CITY MILITARY.

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT !!

SO, THE BEST THING TO DO WOULD BE FOR US TO STICK TOGETHER AND TRAVEL BACK TO FORT BRIGGS WHERE EVERYONE CAN HIDE OUT.

ME ?!

PLUS, THERE ARE MY ORIGINAL ORDERS TO BRING THE GIRL WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE PURIFICATION ARTS BACK TO FORT BRIGGS.

YOU'LL BE TREATED LIKE AN HONORED GUEST

DON'T WORRY.

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?!!

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

YOU WANT THOSE RESEARCH NOTES TRANS-LATED, RIGHT?

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE PLANNING TO TAKE *HIM* ALONG TOO?!

SOMETHING BIG IS ABOUT TO GO DOWN, AND WHATEVER IT IS, IT AFFECTS MORE THAN BRIGGS.

IT CAN'T BE IG-NORED.

CHOMP

HEY! MR. SCAR ISN'T A BAD MAN!!

NOT IF IT MEANS BRING-ING *HIM*!!

WE SHOULD JUST HAND HIM OVER AND-

I'LL DO WHAT YOU ASK.

WELL ?

IT LOOKS LIKE I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE...

IF YOU PROMISE TO COOPERATE, I'LL POSTPONE YOUR PUNISH-MENT.

SCAR...

CHAK

HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT LYING?

I SWEAR ON THE BLOOD OF ISHBAL...

...MY RED-EYED BROTHER.

OKAY.

SO, THAT'S THAT. I'M SORRY, MISS.

YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT A BIT LONGER FOR YOUR VENGEANCE.

NGH..

?!

TUG

HUH...

TWITCH

ER..

AIEE!

YES, SIR!

THEY'RE OF NO USE TO US. ELIMI- NATE THEM.

I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THOSE TWO.

WAIT, WAIT!!

BUT--

BUT ISN'T THERE *ANOTHER* WAY... WITHOUT KILLING THEM?

THERE'S NO BENEFIT TO KEEPING THEM ALIVE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO *KILL* THEM, DO YOU?!

WITH A BODY LIKE THIS, THERE'S NO CHANCE OF US EVER LEADING A NORMAL LIFE AGAIN ANYWAY.

SO, JUST KILL US.

IT'S OUR TIME TO DIE.

ARE YOU SHOWING US MERCY?

YOU'RE A CIVILIAN. HOW COULD YOU UNDER-STAND?

WE DON'T NEED YOUR PITY.

BUT WHEN WE WERE GIVEN THESE BODIES, OUR FAMILIES WERE TOLD THAT WE WERE *DEAD*

WE HAVEN'T SEEN THEM SINCE.

WE DO.

DON'T YOU GUYS HAVE A FAMILY... LOVED ONES?

YEAH. BUT LOOKING LIKE THIS... HOW COULD WE?

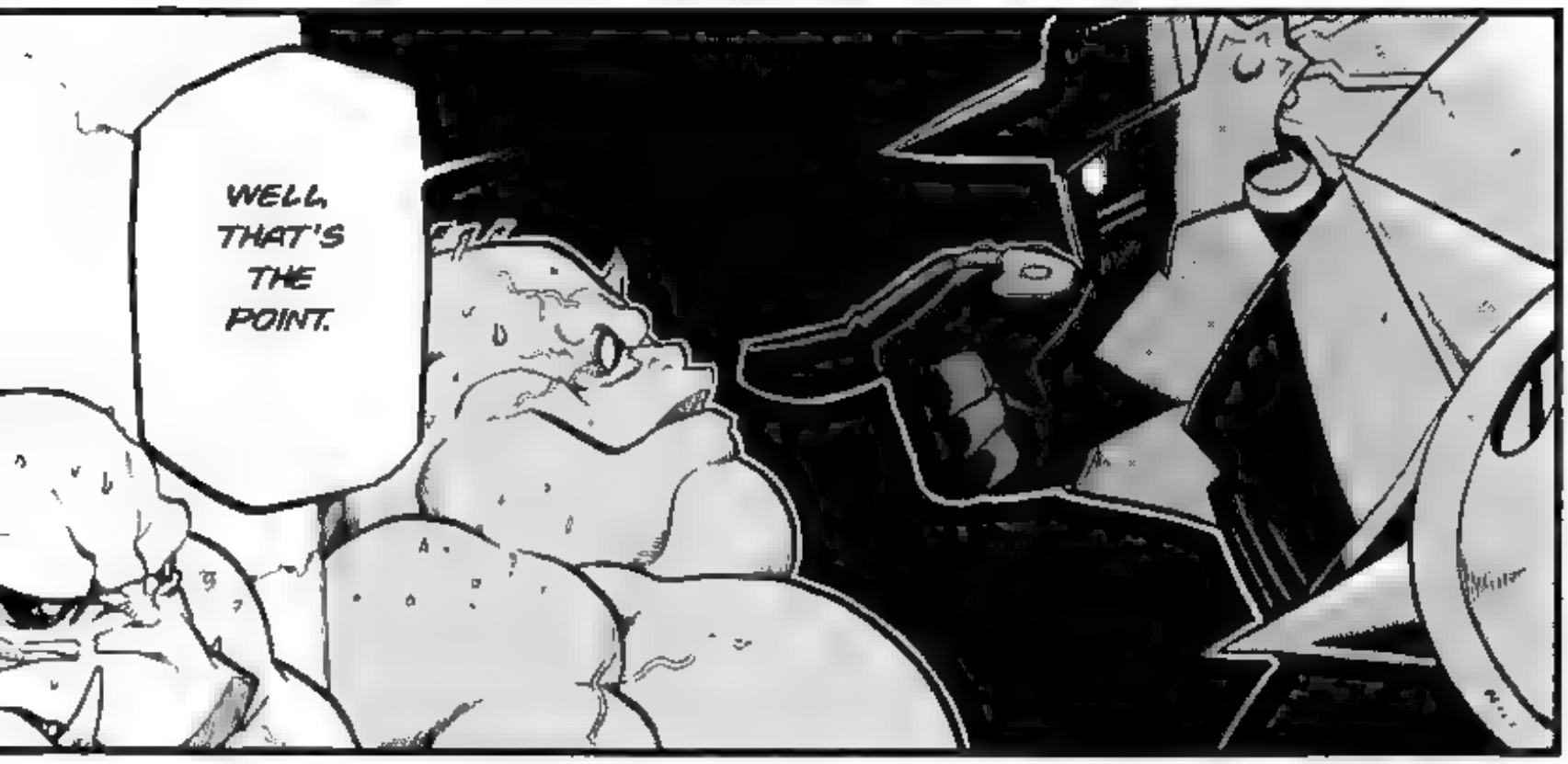
DON'T YOU *WANT* TO SEE THEM AGAIN?

OF COURSE WE WANT OUR OLD BODIES BACK!!

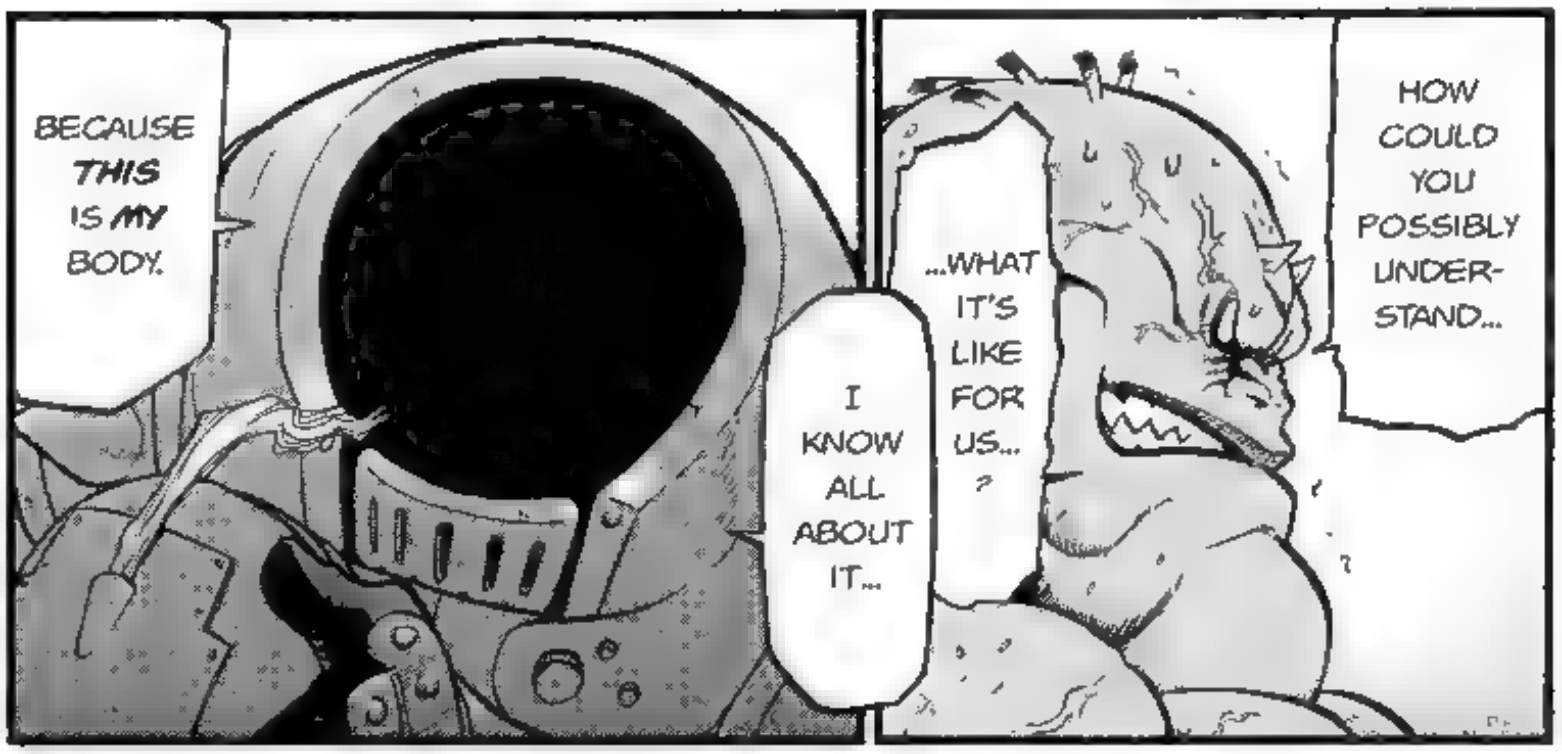
SO YOU GUYS *DON'T* WANT TO GET YOUR OLD BODIES BACK, RIGHT?

OH.

YOU'RE *HAPPY* WITH THE BODIES YOU'RE IN NOW?


WELL, THAT'S THE POINT.

YOU HAVEN'T EVEN CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILTY THAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET YOUR ORIGINAL BODIES BACK!!
STOP BEING SO PESSIMISTIC !!
SO DON'T SAY IT'S HOPELESS AND JUST GIVE UP!


BECAUSE THIS IS MY BODY.
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT...
...WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR US...?
HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND...

!!

IF ANYONE SHOULD GIVE UP, IT'S ***YOU*** YOU'LL ***NEVER*** HAVE A NORMAL BODY AGAIN.

THAT'S WORSE THAN BEING A CHIMERA !

WHA...? Y-YOU DON'T ***HAVE*** A BODY?

SO PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT ***YOU'RE*** GOING TO GIVE UP.

NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS IT TAKES, ***I*** WON'T GIVE UP.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN NEVER.

HOPE KEEPS ME GOING. AND, FINALLY, HOPE HAS GIVEN US A LEAD ON HOW WE MIGHT GET OUR BODIES BACK.

WOOSH

KRAK

HYO

IF THIS STORM GETS ANY WORSE, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE TOWN!

HM...

THIS IS BAD, MAJOR!

VOOM

KRAK

DAMMIT! IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE TRAPPED.

WE'RE NOT EQUIPPED TO SURVIVE ON FOOT IN A BLIZZARD.

WH-WHAT...?

MM-HM

THIS IS A MINING TOWN, RIGHT?

THEN WE SHOULD TAKE THE UNDER-GROUND TUNNELS.

YOU SEE...

IN A MINE THIS BIG, THERE HAS TO BE A TUNNEL THAT LEADS TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN.

YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR! IT CONNECTS!

THERE'S A TUNNEL THAT EXITS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN!

GET THE MAP!

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE A FORMER OWNER OF A COAL MINE!!

HEH HEH HEH

REALLY?

THAT'S IT!!

NOW ALL WE NEED TO DO IS TO COME UP WITH A PLAN TO SOLVE MS. WINRY'S PREDICAMENT WITHOUT INCRIMINATING THE ELRIC BROTHERS.

GOOD! THAT MEANS IF WE CAN STALL KIMBLEE FOR A FEW DAYS, MARCOH AND THE OTHERS CAN GET TO THE FORT FIRST.

AND THE EXIT IS CLOSER TO FORT BRIGGS THAN HERE.

THANK YOU.

IT'S A NOTE EXPLAINING YOUR SITUATION AND INSTRUCTIONS TO AID YOU IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE.

IF YOU RUN INTO ANY SOLDIERS FROM BRIGGS, SHOW THIS TO THEM.

HM...

HOW...?

KIMBLEE IS A SUSPICIOUS MAN.

WE'LL HAVE TO BE FULLY COMMITTED TO OUR STRATEGY.

THIS ISN'T EASY FOR ME TO SAY, BUT...

YOU REALIZE YOU'D BE PUTTING YOUR LIFE IN ***HIS*** HANDS...?

ED, YOU AND THE OTHERS WILL PRETEND TO BE DESPERATELY TRYING TO SAVE ME AS SCAR CARRIES ME AWAY.

THAT'S THE SCENARIO.

...MAYBE WE COULD MAKE IT LOOK LIKE SCAR HAS TAKEN ME HOSTAGE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK...?

BUT OUR LIVES ARE AT STAKE !!

NO WAY! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS !!!

THAT'S RIGHT! THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO RISK YOUR LIFE!!

THERE'S NO WAY WE'RE GOING TO LET YOU GO OFF WITH SCAR!!

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WORRY ABOUT EVERY LITTLE DETAIL!!

WE HAVE TO RISK IT, OR WE'LL NEVER GET FREE!!

KIM-BLEE WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE.

QUICK— MAKE UP YOUR MINDS...

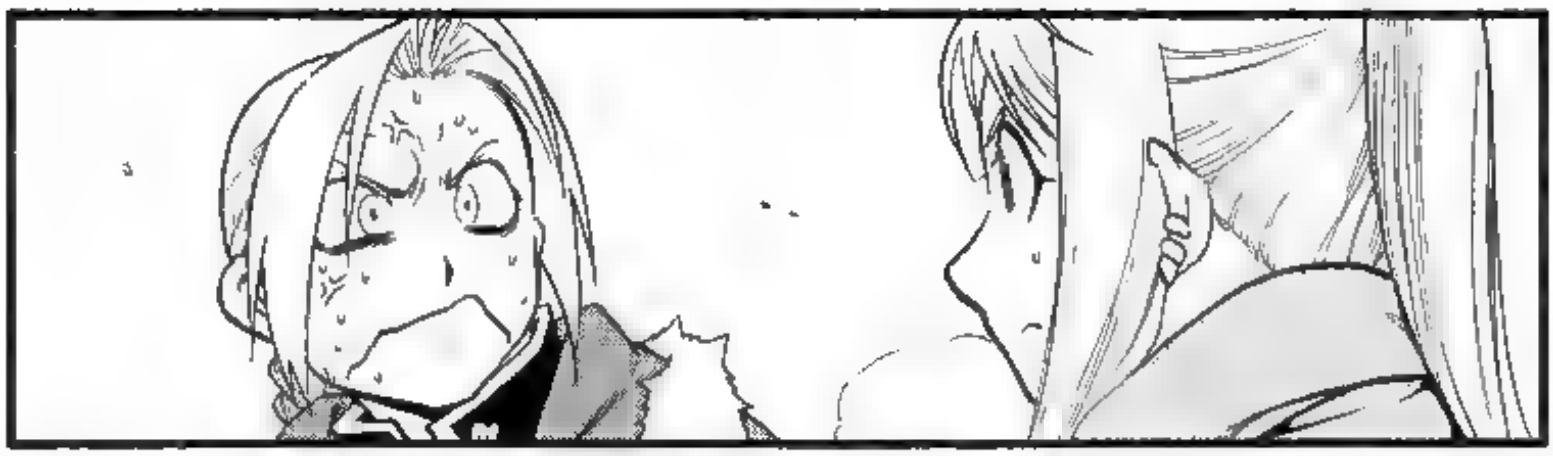
BWOOOO

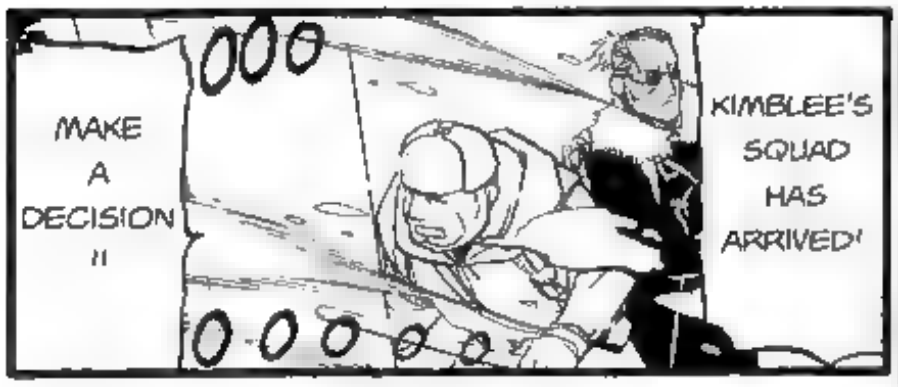
SOON WE WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE BUILDING.

PLUS, THE STORM IS GETTING WORSE.

YOU SAID THAT I WAS ALREADY INVOLVED IN ALL OF THIS, DIDN'T YOU?!

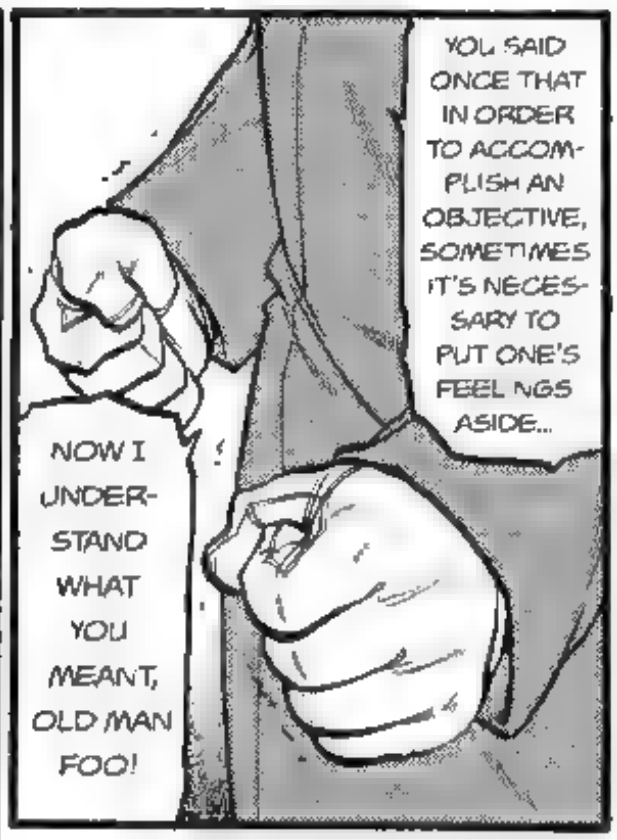
IT'S NOT FAIR FOR YOU TWO TO ALWAYS CARRY THE ENTIRE BURDEN!!




MAKE A DECISION !!
KIMBLEE'S SQUAD HAS ARRIVED!

HURRY !!

DAM-MIT !!!
AAAAAH!!


YOU SAID ONCE THAT IN ORDER TO ACCOM-PLISH AN OBJECTIVE, SOMETIMES IT'S NECES-SARY TO PUT ONE'S FEEL NGS ASIDE...
NOW I UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU MEANT, OLD MAN FOO!

I SWEAR, IF YOU BETRAY US, I'LL--

I UNDER STAND.

I WILL HONOR MY AGREE-MENT.

SCAR !!

IF YOU'RE ESCAPING, TAKE US WITH YOU!!

H... HEY !

WAIT !!

SO YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO UNDO OUR RE-STRAINTS.

I KNOW YOU DON'T TRUST US.

I'M TAKING YOU TWO OUT RIGHT HERE AND NOW!

NO WAY. IT'S TOO RISKY!

BZASH!

...

HE'LL KILL US FOR SURE.

BUT MR. KIMBLEE HAS NO MERCY TOWARD THOSE WHO FAIL TO CARRY OUT HIS ORDERS.

WHAT ?!

THAT INCLUDES YOUR LOVED ONES.

IF YOU GUYS DO ANYTHING TO HINDER US, YOU KNOW THAT THIS COUNTRY COULD BE DESTROYED, DON'T YOU?

MR. ALCHEMIST, I'M BEGGING YOU!! WE'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING WE KNOW!

IF THERE'S ANY WAY FOR US TO GET OUR ORIGINAL BODIES BACK, I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP HOPE.

I'LL HELP YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN!! TAKE US ALONG!!

TELL ME MORE !!

THE CENTRAL CITY MILITARY NEVER TOLD US THAT!

WAIT, WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?!

...THANKS.

I HAVE FAITH IN YOUR ACTING SKILLS.

YOU'D BETTER HURRY, SCAR.

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

SURE. WHATEVER EASES YOUR CONCERNS.

LEAVING THE RE-STRAINTS ON, RIGHT?

C'MON, LET'S GO. MR ALPHONSE!

DRAG DRAG

...SWORN ON THE BLOOD OF ISHBAL.

STAY TRUE TO YOUR OATH...

GO!

HURRY UP AND GO!!

KIMBLEE'S COMING!!

OH, WAIT A SEC', MISS!

YOUR EARRINGS!

THEY'RE METAL, RIGHT? YOUR EARS WILL GET FROSTBITTEN IF YOU DON'T TAKE THEM OFF!

HUH?! OH, OKAY!!

TINK

?

ED
!

HUH
?

HOLD THESE FOR ME!

A-
ALL...
?

...RIGHT
!!

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU BACK AT THE FORT!!

...WE'LL BLAME KIMBLEE FOR SCAR'S ESCAPE AND FOR NEGLECTING TO KEEP A CLOSE ENOUGH WATCH ON MS. ROCKBELL.

NOW...

GRAB

IT SEEMS THE TABLES HAVE TURNED SINCE FIRST WE MET.

LONG TIME NO SEE, KIMBLEE.

HOW DARE YOU!!

I THOUGHT YOU HAD SOMEONE KEEP AN EYE ON WINRY AT HEAD-QUARTERS!!

GRAB

KIMBLEE, YOU BASTARD!

WE FINALLY HAD SCAR CORNERED, BUT WE HAD TO LET HIM GO BECAUSE HE TOOK HER HOSTAGE!!
WHY IS WINRY EVEN HERE ?!!

IT WAS YOUR JOB TO KEEP MS. ROCKBELL IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY!!
KIMBLEE!! CAN'T YOU KEEP AN EYE ON ONE LITTLE GIRL?!!

HUH
..LET ME GO.

FWAA

AB
GR

WHY...
...YOU...

NGH
NGH
NGH
...RED LOTUS ALCHE-MIST ?!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO...
IGH
IGH

NGH
STAY OUT OF MY WAY!
NGH
NGH
NGH

KRAK

KRASH

RRGH...

OOOOOOO

KLATTA

KRAK

BOOM

GWOOOOOOOOO

MR. KIMBLEE, STAY AWAY FROM THE BUILDING !!

SCAR!! I ORDER YOU TO STOP!!

RETURN TO BASE!!

RE-TREAT !!

THOOM

THM

THM

THM

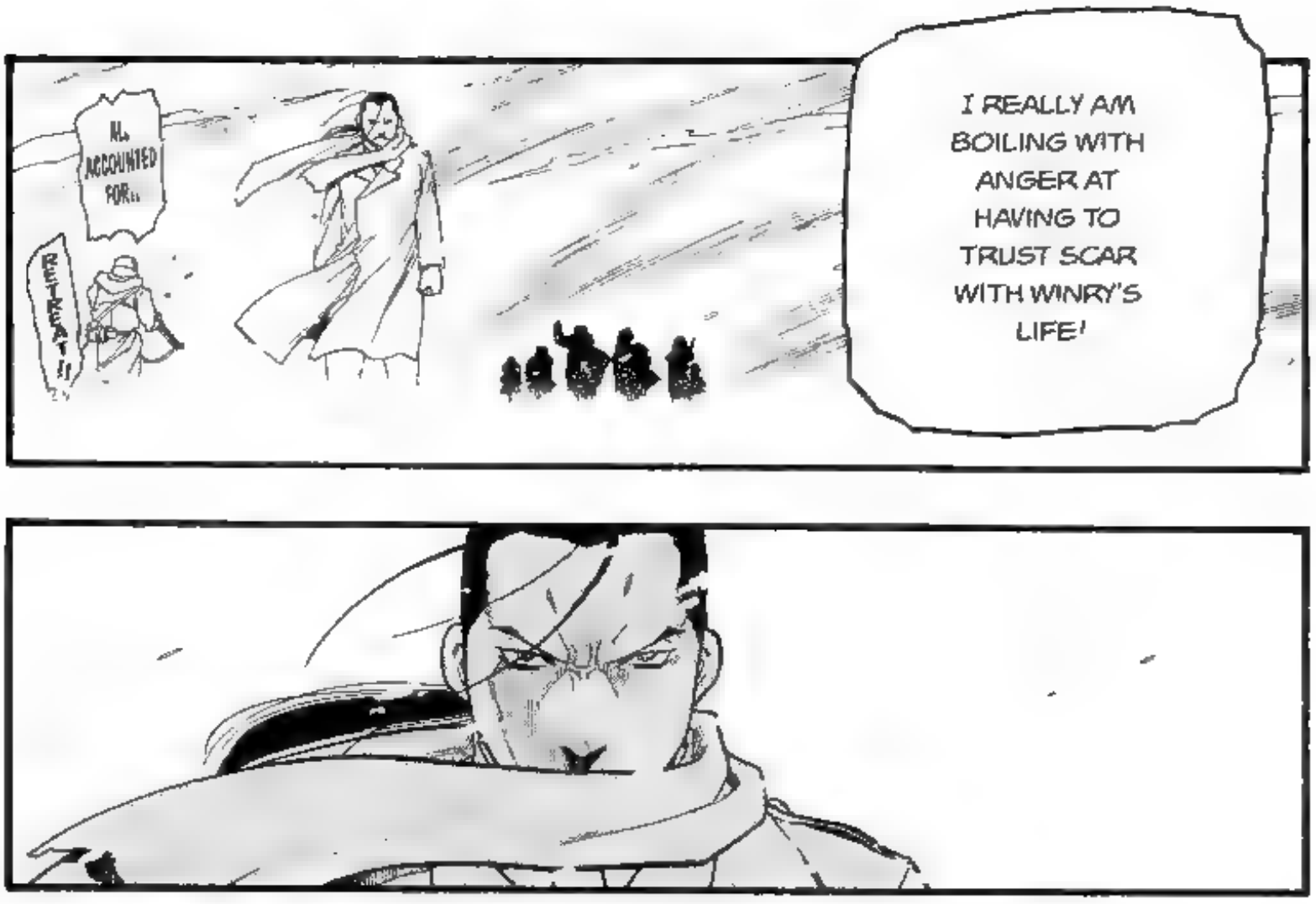
FALL BACK IF YOU WANT TO LIVE!!

THERE'S A HUGE SNOW-STORM COMING IN!!

I WASN'T ACTING.

THAT WAS SOME GREAT ACTING ON YOUR PART.

Whsp


AL ACCOUNTED FOR...
RETREAT!!
I REALLY AM BOILING WITH ANGER AT HAVING TO TRUST SCAR WITH WINRY'S LIFE!

WE HAVE TO TAKE THE PATH WHERE WE CAN FEEL THE BREEZE BLOWING.
GOT THAT ?
PLUS, NO BREEZE MEANS IT'S EASIER FOR POISON GAS TO ACCUMU-LATE.
IF THE AIR IS STALE, IT'S MOST LIKELY A DEAD-END.
WOOOOO

YOU'RE BRAVE, JUST LIKE THEM.

THEY WOULD BE PROUD.

NO, NOT AT ALL.

THEY WERE WELL KNOWN ON THE BATTLE FRONT.

SO YOU'RE THE ROCKBELL DOCTORS' DAUGHTER...

YES.

TMP TMP TMP

I'VE LET DOWN MY BOSS AND MY CUSTOMERS IN RUSH VALLEY. I DISAPPEARED WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A PHONE CALL.

I PUT MYSELF INTO DANGER...

AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHEN I'LL BE ABLE TO GET HOME.

I'M PATHE-TIC.

WHAT'S WRONG ?

MAY ?

... I SEE.

BACK IN MY COUNTRY, MY ENTIRE FAMILY IS WAITING FOR ME, BUT I CAN'T GO HOME EITHER.

WHERE ARE WE?

THIS IS IT!

OH !

GEEZ... IT'S SO COMP-LICATED.

A DETAILED MAP OF THE TUNNELS !

HERE'S ONE !

IN HERE, THERE SHOULD BE A... THIS IS THE TUN-NEL INSPEC-TORS STA-TION.

RSTL RSTL

I... I DON'T WANT IT ANY-MORE.

I WAS JUST THINKING... IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU ASKED ME ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE. WHY IS THAT?

YOU'RE AMAZING!

HEH, HEH! KEEP THE COMPLI-MENTS COMING!

WE JUST GO THROUGH HERE, HERE, AND HERE TO GET OUT.

WITH HIS IMPERIAL POWER, HE COULD EASILY GATHER A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO SACRIFICE.

EVEN IF I JUST BROUGHT BACK THE KNOWLEDGE AND NOT THE STONE ITSELF, HIS MAJESTY WOULDN'T HESITATE TO RECREATE IT.

IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR ME TO USE SOMETHING THAT WAS MADE BY SACRIFICING PEOPLE'S LIVES.

IT'S POS-SIBLE.

AFTER ALL, IT'S A TYPE OF ALCHEMY THAT WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.

DO YOU THINK THERE MIGHT BE A CLUE IN THERE ABOUT A WAY TO GET OUR ORIGINAL BODIES BACK?!

HEY, DR. MAR-COH...

REALLY?! NOW YOU'VE GOT MY HOPES UP!!

KEEP MOVING, YOU BAS-TARDS!

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH A LOT QUICKER THAN WE THOUGHT.

MAR COH, HURRY UP!

MAYBE THEN YOU'LL FIND THE INFORMATION YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

SOON AS WE'RE SAFE, LET'S READ THROUGH THOSE RESEARCH NOTES AGAIN AND SEE IF WE CAN DECIPHER THEM.

OKAY.

KLATA
KLATA
KLATA
ZANPANO AND JELSO HAVEN'T RETURNED YET.
MAYBE SCAR KILLED THEM. OR THEY GOT STUCK IN THE SNOWSTORM.
AT THIS RATE, WE AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE SOON.
BWWOOOO

AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE, WE SHOULD PLAN OUR NEXT SEARCH
HE MUST STILL BE SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY, SIR.
BUT IF **WE** CAN'T MOVE, THAT MEANS SCAR CAN'T MOVE *EITHER*.

YOU HAVE A CALL FROM BRIGGS, SIR.
MAJOR MILES...
THIS SNOWSTORM REALLY SAVED US.
I HOPE MARCOH AND THE OTHERS MAKE IT TO FORT BRIGGS WHILE KIMBLEE IS STILL IMMOBILIZED.
KLATTA
THEY SAY IT'S URGENT THAT THEY SPEAK WITH YOU...
WHAT DO THEY WANT?

...

WHAT ?!

MILES HERE.

WHAT'S THE MAT-TER ?

MAJOR GENERAL ARMSTRONG HAS BEEN CALLED TO CENTRAL CITY.

ARE THE ELRIC BROTHERS THERE?

HUH? WHAT IS IT?

WE HAVE A BIG PROB-LEM.

I SAW HIM MAKING A LOT OF PHONE CALLS BACK AT THE FORT.

KIMBLEE MUST HAVE TOLD THE PRESI-DENT SOME-THING...

A GROUP OF MEN FROM CENTRAL CITY ARRIVED AT FORT BRIGGS.

THEN A COMMANDER WHO IS LOYAL TO BRADLEY WILL MOST LIKELY BE INSTATED IN HER PLACE.

IF THE MAJOR GEN-ERAL S GONE...

WAIT A SEC'

WE HAVE TO WARN WINRY AND THE OTHERS..

BUT HOW ?

BYOO

THEY MIGHT WALK RIGHT INTO THE ENEMY'S HANDS...

IT WILL BE DIFFI-CULT TO HELP THEM NOW.

W-WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!

OOOOO

OH NO !!

WINRY AND THE OTHERS ARE GOING TO THE FORT!!

AND IN THIS STORM, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GO AFTER THEM ON FOOT.

THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE A RADIO.

WOOOOOOOO

KLATA KLATA KLATA

BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, IT'LL SAP ALL YOUR ENERGY AND YOU'LL FREEZE TO DEATH. END OF STORY.

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE A BLIZ-ZARD.

I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES AND—

THERE'S ONE BODY THAT DOESN'T TIRE AND WON'T FREEZE TO DEATH— *MINE.*

THERE IS...

...A WAY.

BOOWOOOOOOOO

"WAIT UNTIL THERE'S A LULL IN THE SNOW-STORM. WHEN THE WIND HAS DIED DOWN, LOOK FOR THE MILEPOST AND MOVE TOWARDS IT."

LET'S SEE...

"WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LOSE THE MAP AND COMPASS."

OOOOOH

GEEZ, THIS IS TOUGH !!

I CAN'T SEE TEN FEET IN FRONT OF ME!

KZORK

WOOOO

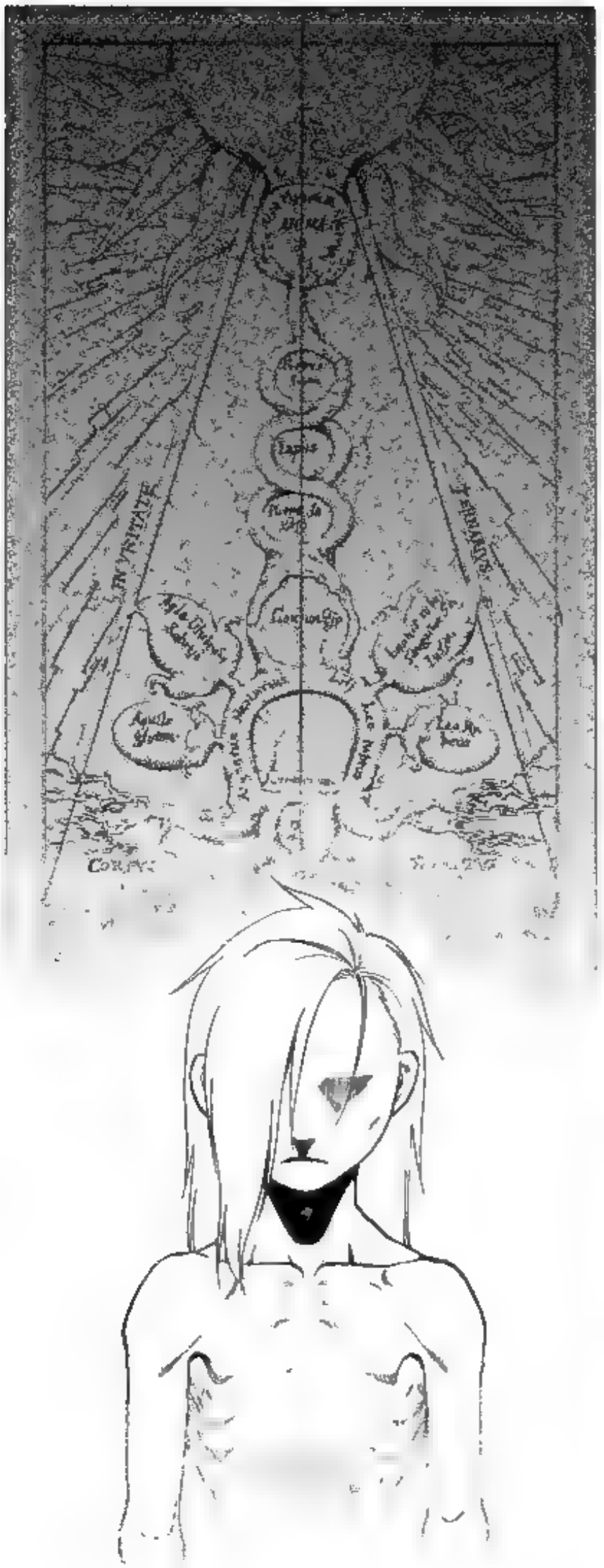
AAAH !!

THERE IT IS!

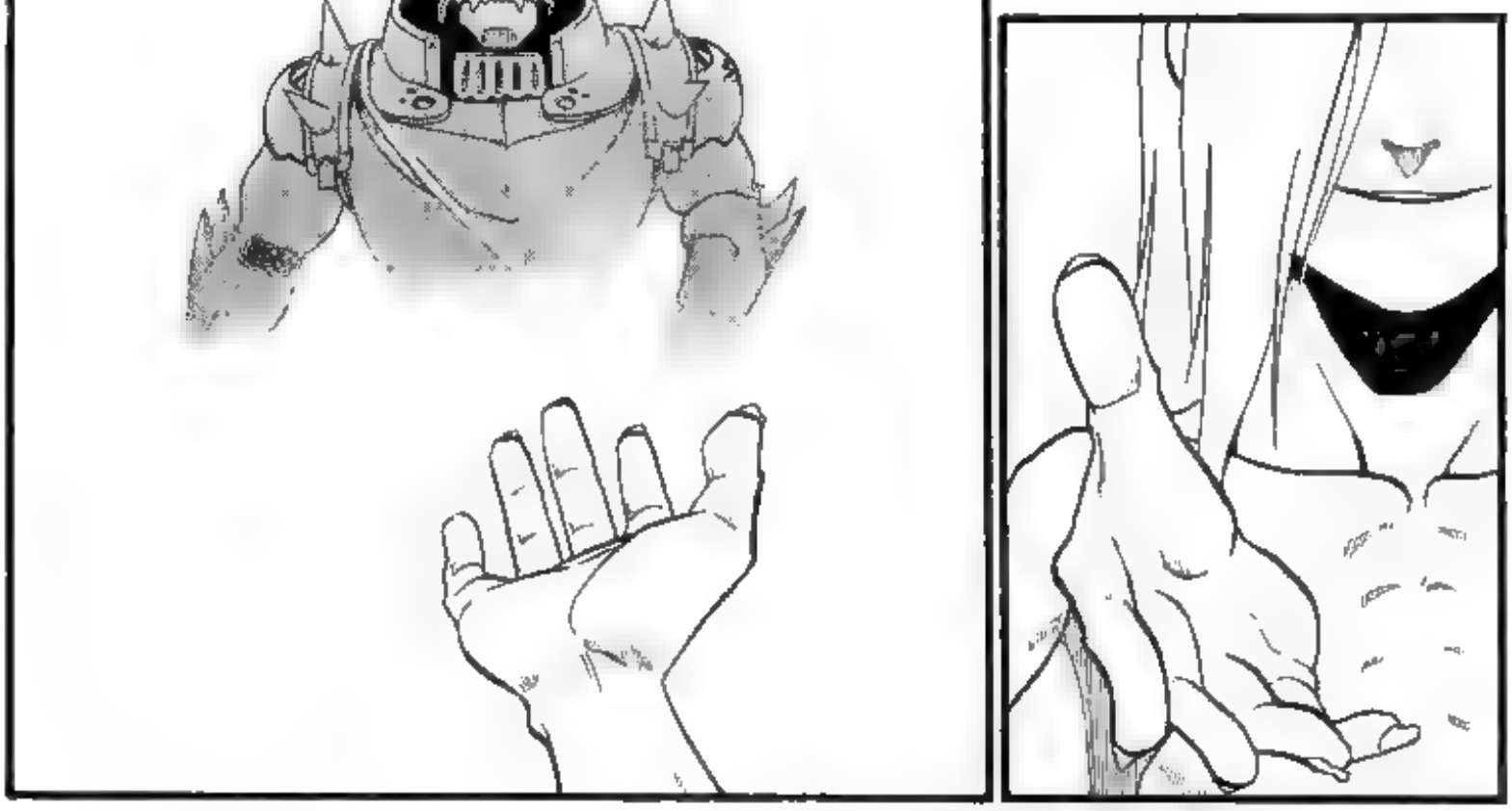
MILE-POST NUM-BER !!

OOOOOOOO

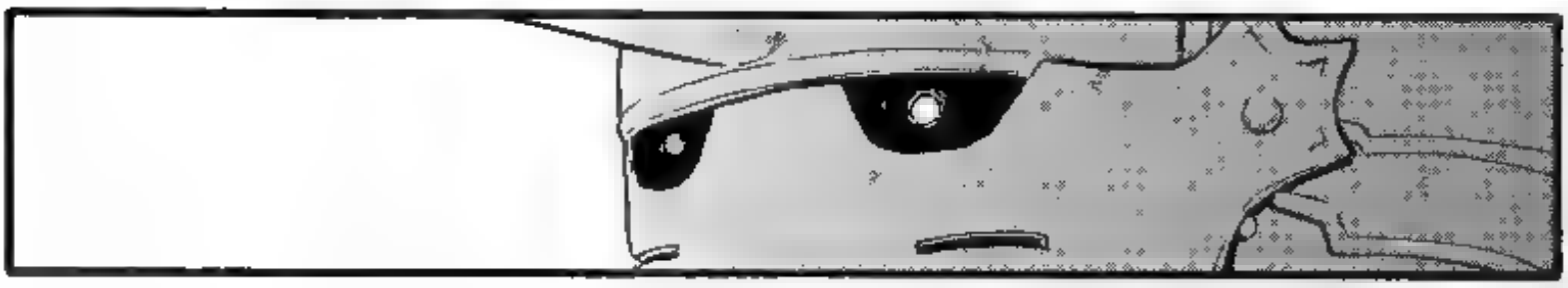
WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE THE MILEPOST, STAY PUT UNTIL YOU CAN.



EVERY-
THING'S
WHITE...
I CAN'T
SEE A
THING!



OH...



JUST

?!

...HUH ?!

OOOOOO

BWOOOO

WAS THAT MY PHYS-ICAL BODY...?!

WHY...?

CLANK

WHAT WAS THAT...

...JUST NOW...?

"SO OF COURSE THEY WOULD REPEL ONE ANOTHER."

THEY WERE TWO SEPARATE THINGS TO BEGIN WITH."

GET A HOLD OF...

MY PHYS-ICAL BODY...

..IS PULLING MY SOUL TOWARDS IT..?

...SO IT'S BEING RE-JECTED.

NORMALLY, THIS BODY WOULDN'T HAVE A SOUL INSIDE IT...

CLANK

I'VE GOT TO GO FAST-ER..

GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF !

GWOON

GWOON

EDWARD ELRIC.

GWOON GWOON

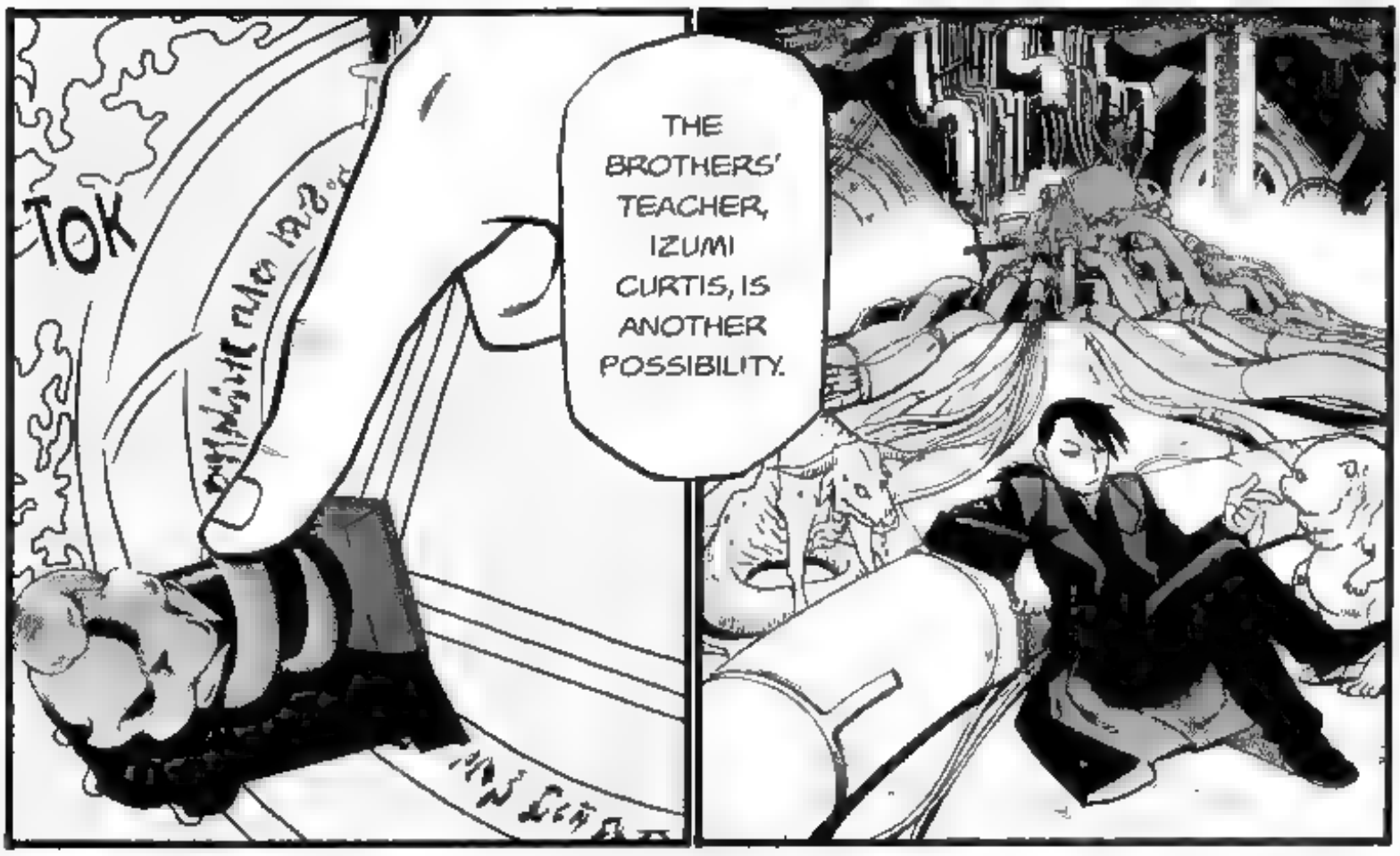
AL- PHONSE ELRIC..

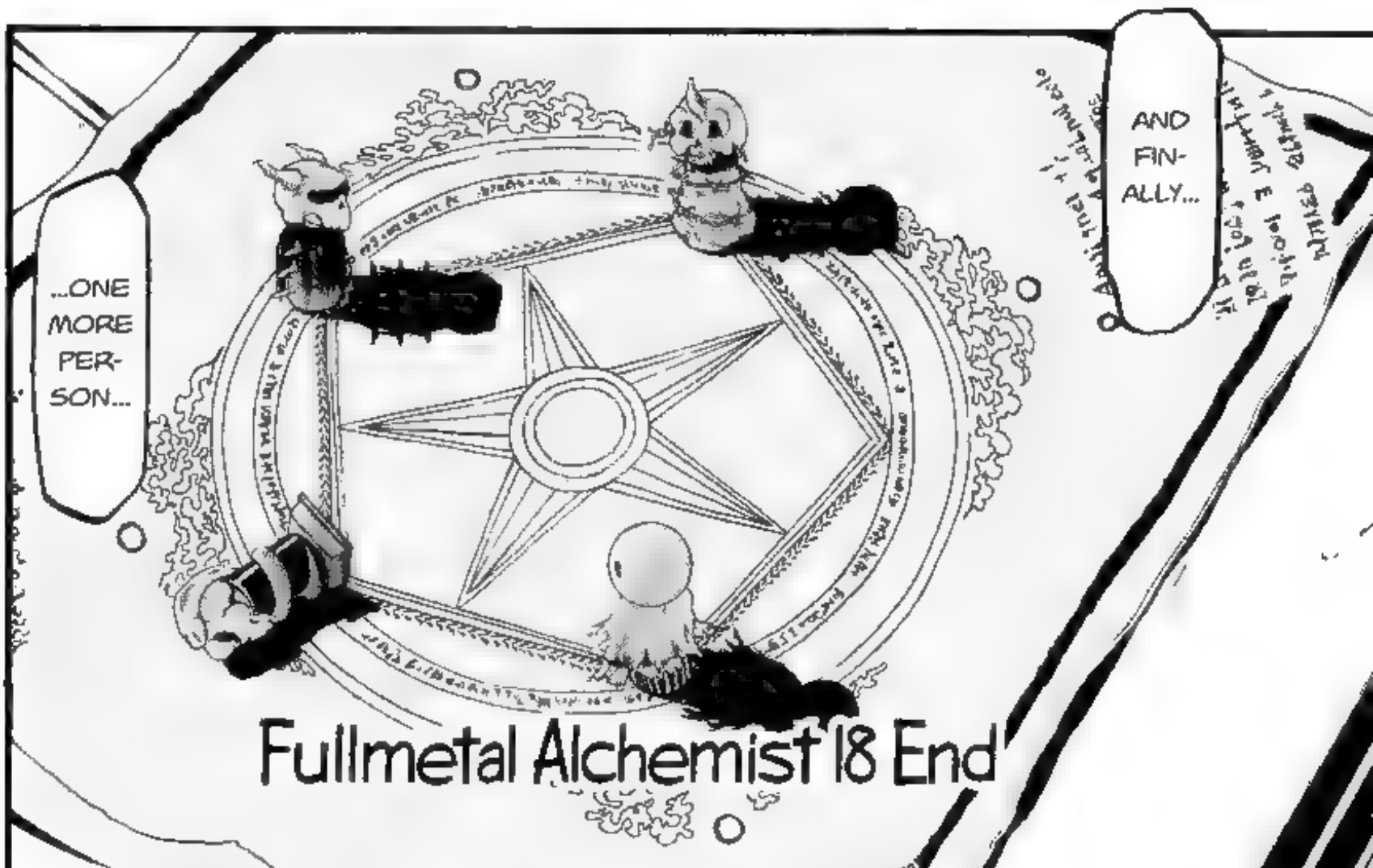
TAK

TAK

..VON HOENHEIM.

..AND...


TOK
THE BROTHERS' TEACHER, IZUMI CURTIS, IS ANOTHER POSSIBILITY.


...ONE MORE PER-SON...
AND FIN-ALLY...
Fullmetal Alchemist 18 End

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST 18

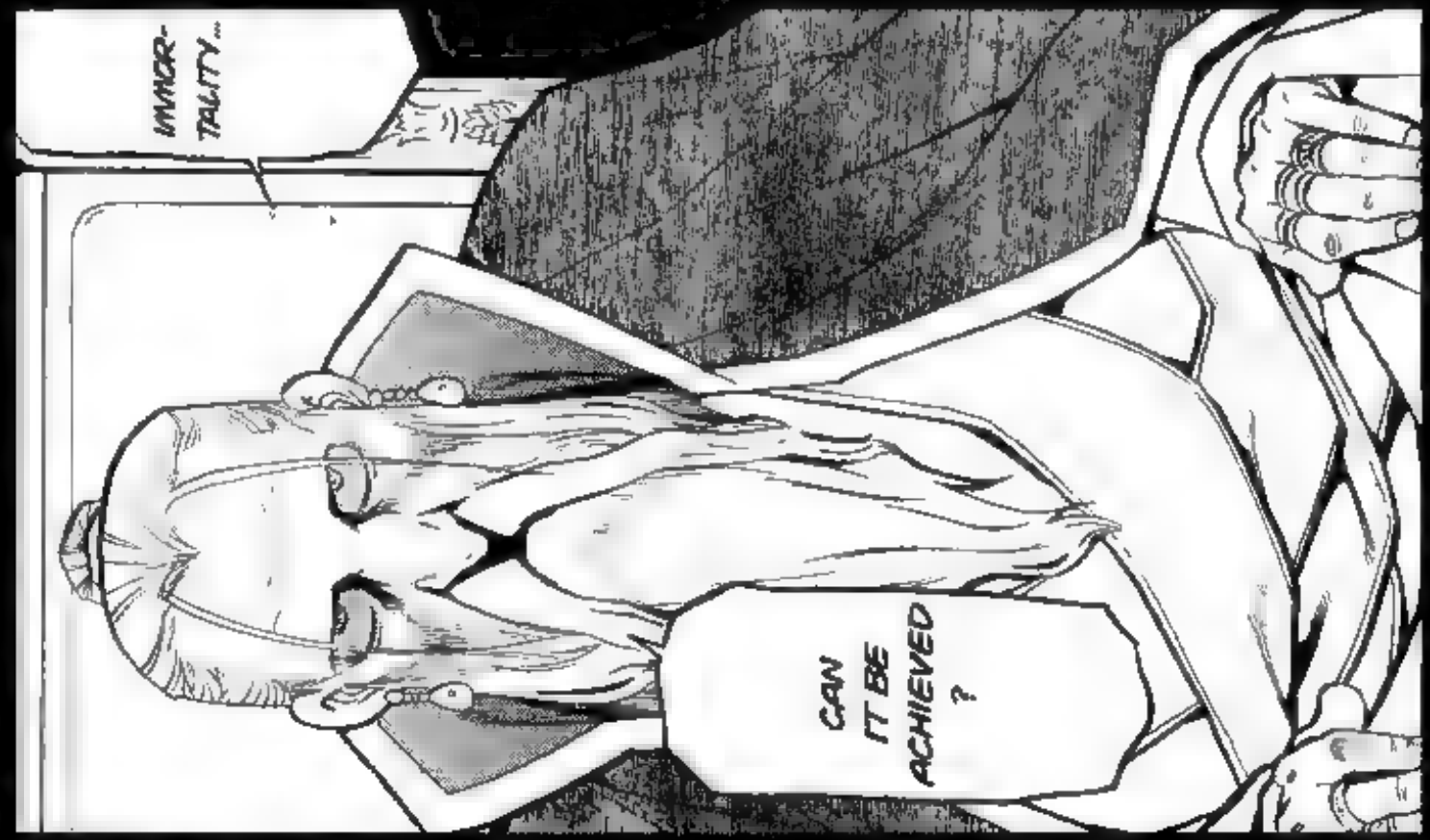
SPECIAL THANKS to:

JUN TOHKO
AIYABALL
NONO
MASASHI MIZUTANI
COUPON
NORIKO TSUBOTA
HARUHI NAKAMURA
MICHIKO SHISHIDO
MASANARI YUZUKA sensei
Editor YUICHI SHIMOMURA

BAYATE THE FAITHFUL DOG

Was it all just a dream? A long-forgotten story begins with the realization that a voice is calling from the darkness...

Fullmetal Alchemist PREVIEW



THE FIRST TO BE BORN OUT OF THE DARKNESS...?!!

I'M A HOMUNCULUS.

GRIN

YOU COULD CALL ME THE DWARF IN THE FLASK.

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST 19

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST VOLUME 19

鋼の錬金術師

①

②

③

IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE KANJI THAT SPELL "FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST" IN JAPANESE, YOU'LL SEE IT HAS THE CHARACTER FOR "MONEY" IN IT THREE TIMES.

HOW EXTRAV-AGANT.

.....

EVERY-WHERE YOU LOOK, IT'S MONEY, MONEY, MONEY !!!

GAH!

PEH!

EVEN A MANGA ABOUT HOPES AND DREAMS IS SULLIED BY MONEY ?!!

MONEY...

MONEY...

MONEY...

MUTTER

HE'S JUST GOING THROUGH A PHASE. LET HIM GO.

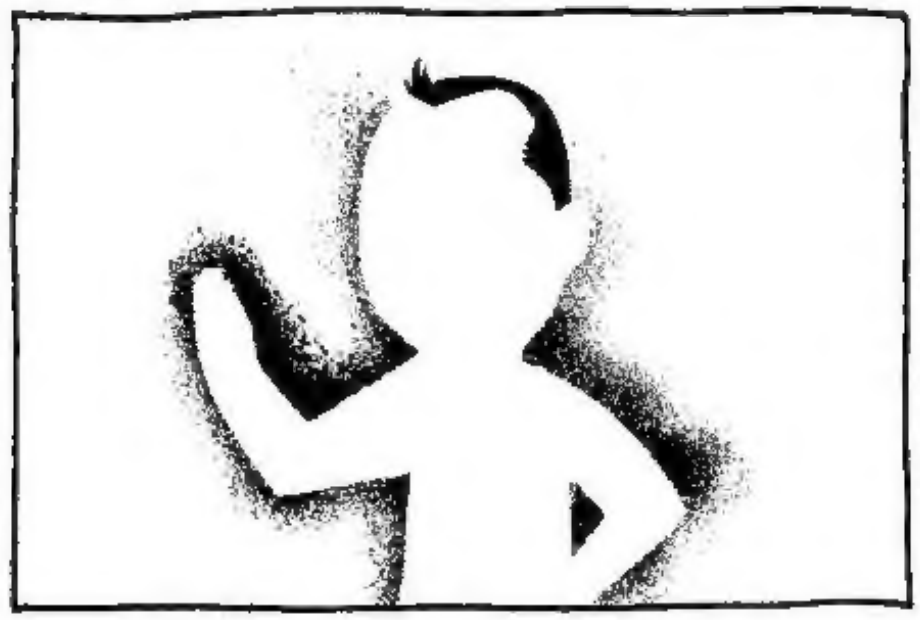
SIGH

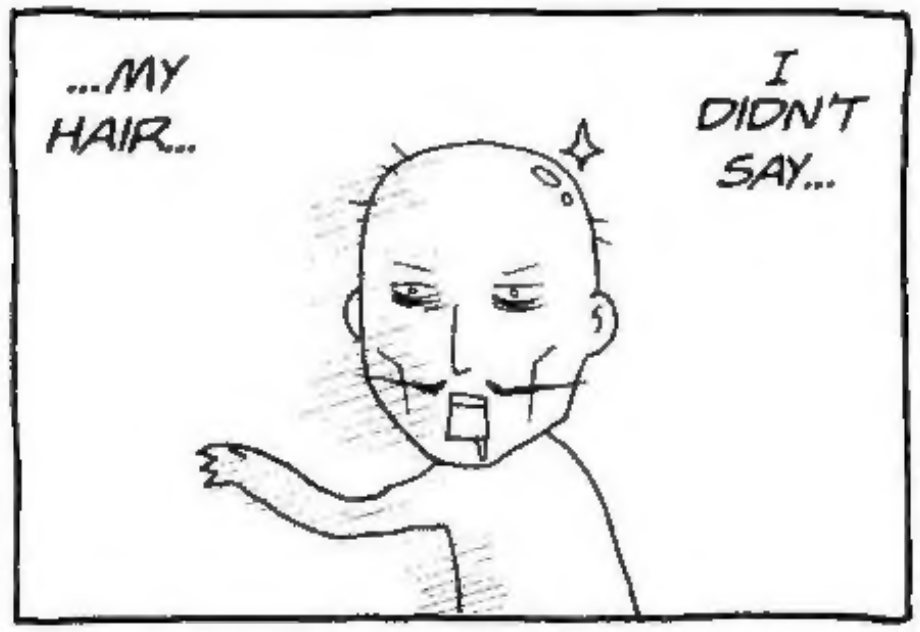
WHAT'S WRONG ?!

YOU'RE ALL A BUNCH OF CAPITALIST PIGS!!!

I GIVE UP !!

IF MR. YOKI ATTEMPTED HUMAN TRANSMUTATION





FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST 18

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